THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • AUGUST 23, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

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FOCUS ON CHINA AS QUAD GATHERS FOR MALABAR DRILL

The 4-day drill (Aug 26-29) off the Guam coast comes amid China's aggressive powerplay in the Indo-Pacific region

INDIAN FRIGATE, CORVETTE IN WESTERN PACIFIC

Indian frigate INS Shivalik and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt reached Guam in the Western Pacific to take part in the exercise with the US, Japan and Australia. Beijing sees the drill as an effort to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region. It also comes at a time when China is building ties with the Taliban to increase its strategic depth

DEMO OF INTEGRATED DETERRENCE

- It is likely to be a demonstration of the 'integrated deterrence' approach laid down by Defense Secy Lloyd Austin during the change of command for the US Indo-Pacific Command in April
- Integrated deterrence aims at expanding capabilities and using them in networked ways with allies against all common enemies

1992

THE JOINT INDO-U.S. MALABAR WAR GAMES BEGAN IN 1992

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Af lawmakers among 400 more evacuated to India

Another flight with 146 Indians is expected to arrive from Doha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Indians and Afghan nationals evacuated from Kabul upon arrival at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on Sunday | PTI

CLOSE to 400 evacuated people from Kabul, including two Afghan lawmakers, landed in India on Sunday in three different flights, as the security situation in Afghanistan's capital deteriorated further.

That apart, 146 Indians, who were evacuated to Doha, are expected to reach India by Sunday night, the Indian embassy in Qatar said. Most of them had worked for foreign companies in Afghanistan.

Of the 392 who landed in India earlier in the day, one flight had 168 evacuees, including 107 Indians and 23 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus. The C-17 heavy-lift transport aircraft of the IAF that brought them back, landed at Hindon airbase near Delhi.

Another group of 87 Indians and two Nepalese nationals arrived on a special Air India flight from Dushanbe, a day after they were evacuated to the Tajikistan capital.

The third aircraft had 135 Indians, who were earlier evacuated from Kabul to Doha in the last few days by the US and NATO aircraft. They were taken to Delhi on a special flight.

Prominent in the group of 168 were Afghanistan lawmakers Anarkali Honaryar and Narender Singh Khalsa and their family members.

"I am feeling like crying. Everything is finished. It is a very difficult and painful decision to leave the country. We have not seen such a situation. Everything has been snatched away. It's all over," a despondent Khalsa told the media upon his arrival.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said around 500 more are stranded in Afghanistan as per preliminary estimations. "The evacuation process is happening in a flawless manner. As per our estimation there will be around 500 people to return to India. The union government has taken steps to bring back all those Indians who want to come back. There are some issues related to the travel to the airport there. The government will take necessary steps to bring those stranded there safely to the airport," Muraleedharan said.

A small group of Indian officials is learnt to be coordinating the evacuation at the Kabul airport, and another batch of Indians is expected to be brought back on Monday.

The number of people evacuated by India from Kabul so far reached around 590 since last Monday. P7,9

₹40,000-CRORE STORY

INSURERS ROLLING IN MONEY RAISED FOR CROP COVER

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

WHEN the gross premium collected by insurance firms is more than the total value of the claims settled, you know insurance is a profitable business. But when insurance companies appear to be rolling in money generated from farmers' meagre premiums for covering their crops even after settling their loss claims, you wonder what's happening.

Take the Centre's ambitious PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The gross premiums received by insurance companies under the scheme over the last five years is ₹1.26 lakh crore, but farmers got just ₹87,320 crore as claims (see table). The difference is a cool ₹40,000 crore. Surely a farm welfare scheme ought not to benefit the insurance firm, certainly not by such a big margin?

The huge profit the insurance firms are enjoying actually comes from the government, as under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% of the sum insured is paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. The rest is borne by the state and the Centre.

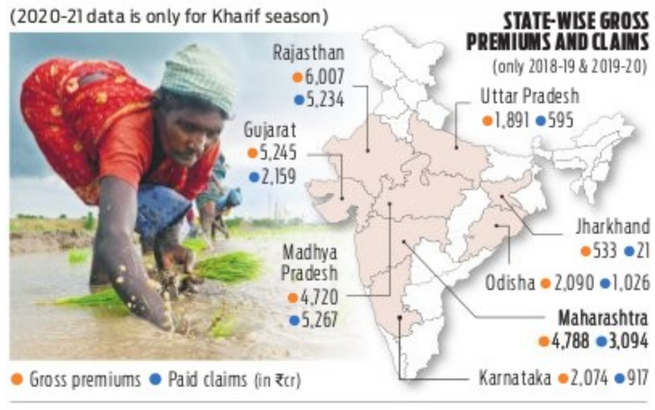
Agriculture policy expert Devinder Sharma said there are many flaws in the crop insurance scheme, and needs overhauling. "It looks like that it is for the benefit of insurance companies. There is a complete need to overhaul and redesign it. Many states opting out of the scheme is a clear indication of it," he said. P8

STATUS REPORT OF PMFBY SCHEME

YEAR	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
Farmers Insured (in lakh)	583.7	533	576.2	608.8	398.1	2,699.8
Area Insured (in lakh hect)	567.3	508.3	523	494.8	261.2	2,354.6
Gross Premium (in crore)	21,770	24,649	29,348	31,709	19,047	1,26,523
Paid Claims (in crore)	16,758	22,113	27,491	20,943	15	87,320

(2020-21 data is only for Kharif season)

STATE-WISE GROSS PREMIUMS AND CLAIMS
(only 2018-19 & 2019-20)



75% of parents against sending kids to school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CLASSES 9 to 12 are set to reopen in the offline mode from Monday even as students and parents are divided over whether to opt for it, as fears of catching the Covid infection linger.

A survey by the Management of Independent CBSE Schools in Karnataka revealed that up to 75 per cent of parents of students in Classes 9 to 12 are unwilling to send their children to school. The rest reason that offline classes can better ensure learning than online, besides improving social interaction of students.

FULL REPORT: P2

WITH THIS ISSUE THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

FM calls Infy chief over I-T portal glitch

BENGALURU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has summoned Infosys CEO Salil Parekh on Monday, seeking an explanation over glitches in the new I-T portal | P10

Dayananda Sagar University Bengaluru

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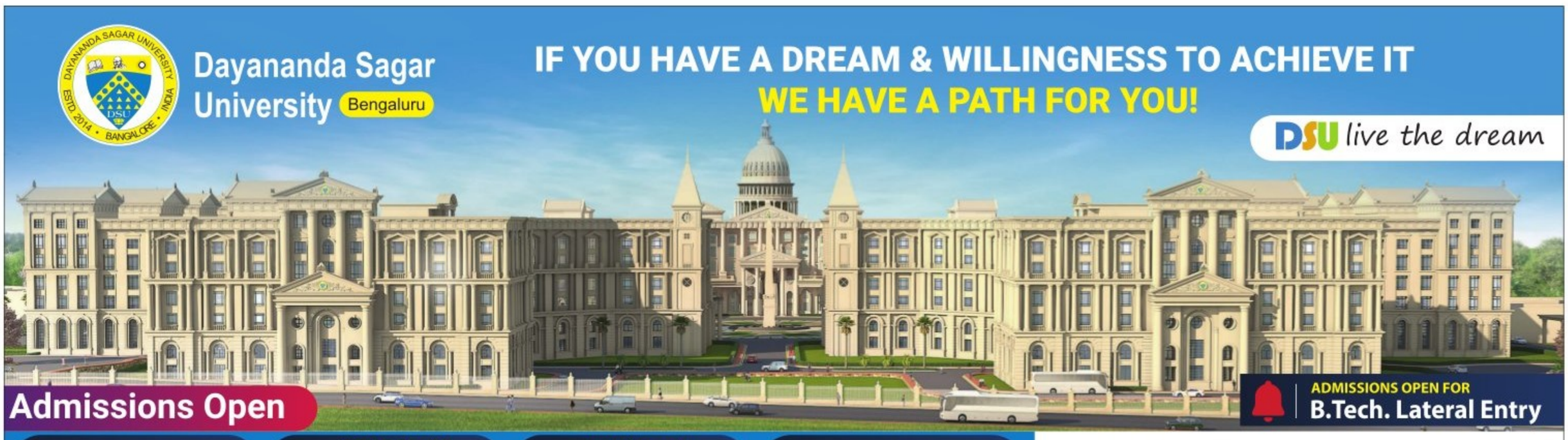

Admissions Open

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR B.Tech. Lateral Entry

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| CSE (Data Science)
| CSE (Cyber Security)
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| Mechanical Engineering
| Computer Science & Technology
| Aerospace Engineering
M.Tech.
| Computer Science & Engineering
| Design Engineering
| Embedded Systems
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| Web & Mobile App Development
| Cloud Computing & Network
| Big Data & Business Analytics
MCA
| Full Stack Development & Cloud Computing
| Data Analytics and Data Science

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| Marketing Management
| Artificial Intelligence
| IT & System Management
| Human Resource Management
| Entrepreneurship
| Financial Management.
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| Regular | BFSI
| Retail Operations with Apprenticeship
B.Com.
| ACCA | CMA | CA Foundation

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B.Sc
| Medical Laboratory Technology
| Medical Imaging & Radiology Technology
| Anesthesia & Operation Theatre Technology (OTT)
| Emergency & Trauma Care Technology
| Renal Dialysis Technology
B.Sc.Nursing
M.Sc.Nursing
Masters in Public Health
B.Pharm, Pharm.D.
M.Pharm
| Pharmaceutics | Pharmacology
BPT, MPT
All Allied Health Sciences Program will be Executed at the School of Medicine - CDSIMER

SCHOOL OF BASIC & APPLIED SCIENCES
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| Microbiology, Genetics & Biochemistry
M. Sc.
| Biotechnology | Biochemistry
| Microbiology | Human Genetics

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| User Experience Design
BA - J & MC
| Journalism & Mass Communication

6 DECADES LEGACY IN EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE

siliconindia Education WHAT IF NOT IIMs B SCHOOL SURVEY - 2021 RANKED A+++ CATEGORY

IIRF -2021
STATE RANK 3 SOUTH ZONE RANK 3

ICARE RATINGS KSURF
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DSU Campus 1: School of Medicine Dr. Chandramma Dayananda Sagar,Institute of Medical Education & Research, Deverakaggalahalli, Kanakapura Road,Ramanagara Dt, Karnataka.
DSU Campus 2 : Innovation Campus Main Admissions & Administrative office, Kudlu Gate, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560114. DSU City Admissions Office: Gate 2, University Building, Dental Block, 6th Floor, Shavige Malleshwara Hills, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560111

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 23/08/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Dakshinayana
• Ritu: Varsha • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Prathami 4.20 pm
• Nakshatra: Shatabhisha 8.24 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Broken clouds

Sunrise 6.08 am
Sunset 6.36 pm
Moonrise 7.31 pm
Moonset 6.42 am

Stay home or meet friends? Students confused

While some want to go back to school, others are still worried about the prevailing Covid situation

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

STUDENTS of Classes 9 to 12 are divided over attending school from Monday. While some are looking at it as an opportunity to start socialising with their friends again after a gap of over a year, others are worried about the risks involved with the Covid situation yet to settle down.

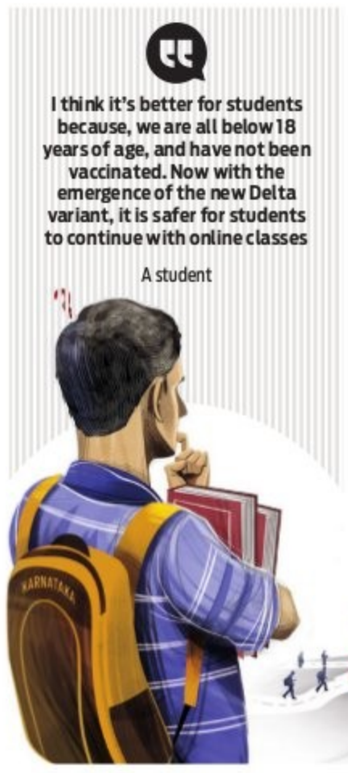
Priya PS of the Bangalore Student Community felt that it was not a good idea to reopen schools at a time when the third wave is looming. "Attending offline classes at this time is risky, considering that the students are not vaccinated. Many of them are paranoid," she said.

Nandan SB, a Class 12 student at an international school, said that many parents are not comfortable with sending their children to schools yet. His school has sent a form to parents on reopening of schools. "I personally like schools reopening as online classes are not as effective as offline," he said.

Another student said that her school has informed them that they will continue with online classes for the next month at least, and has not given any instructions on starting offline classes. "I think it's better for students because, we are all below 18 years of age, and have not been vaccinated. Now with the emergence of the new Delta variant, it is safer for students to continue with online classes," she said.

Students are divided between those willing to attend physical classes and those who aren't. "It's a mix of both. For safety reasons, they don't want to, but since we've all been at home for over a year now we want to go back," said Dhwani Mohanty of the Bangalore Student Community.

> I think it's better for students because, we are all below 18 years of age, and have not been vaccinated. Now with the emergence of the new Delta variant, it is safer for students to continue with online classes
>
> A student



Varsities to set up helplines to clarify about NEP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @
Bengaluru

HIGHER Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan on Sunday affirmed that the state government was going ahead with the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020) by reaching out to every college through the universities they are affiliated to, and spread awareness about the new policy and the way it would be implemented.

Universities have been told to set up separate helplines for the purpose, and answers for frequently asked questions pertaining to the policy will be spread through the media, website, and also posted on social media platforms, he said. Narayan was addressing a virtual programme on NEP-2020, organised by the social media cell of the BJP.

Efforts are being made to clear doubts and confusion raised by various stakeholders. In addition to administrative measures, the department is also taking steps to create awareness among the student community. The faculty and management are being enlightened about the policy by holding interactions, seminars and workshops, Narayan said.

The department is expected to lay down clearer guidelines for implementation of NEP-2020 on Monday, besides clarifying on the official admission processes.

For seven months, residents of Kanakapura Road are waiting for either BMRCL or BBMP to fix the pedestrian crossing | EXPRESS

Pedestrian-friendly? Not at all, say people

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IT has been over seven months since the first Metro Phase-II line from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute was launched, but Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL) promise of making the Kanakapura Road pedestrian-friendly following completion of work is long forgotten. Pedestrians here continue to risk their lives by darting across the road by dodging speeding vehicles.

A total of 25 High-Rise Pedestrian Crossings (HRPC) and 25 rumble strips were meant to be in place along a 7.9-km stretch on the road from Sarakki Signal to Nice Junction.

HRPC are scientifically built humps aimed to ensure safety for walkers, while rumble strips are a series of small rubber humps installed in close proximity to reduce the speed of vehicles.

Abdul Aleem, president, Changemakers of Kanakapura Road, an umbrella organisation of 60 Resident Welfare Organisations, told TNIE, "Residents here had requested BMRCL for the safety infrastructure on the road two years ago. Now, BBMP tells us that BMRCL needs to install these safety features. BMRCL had abruptly handed over the road to BBMP without completing these aspects. In the process, it is the residents who suffer daily."

A BBMP official said that they were supposed to carry out these safety measures on the stretch of the road between Sarakki Signal to Konanakunte Junction (2 km) but the portion between Konanakunte Signal to Nice Road (5.9 km) had to be done by the BMRCL. "I have already asked our traffic engineering cell to install three HRPC crossings in the portion we need to do and it will be done soon," the official added.

A senior BMRCL official said that it was up to the BBMP and the traffic police to create these safety features. "We handed over the road to the BBMP two months ago after restoring it. We do not know where to install these humps. Our job on the road is over now."

Despite penalties, citizens still not utilising harvested rainwater

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE stringent regulations and penalties in place for storing rainwater, the city continues to have drains overflowing onto roads after rain. The reason is that though most people have installed Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) units, they are not using it properly.

As per data given by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), 2,10,000 houses need to compulsorily install RWH. Of them, 1,55,200 have installed them, while the rest continue to pay the penalty for non-installation. In the city, two categories of houses must install RWH: 1) Houses on 60x40 sqft and above sites, built before 2014 and 2) Houses on 30x40 sqft and above sites, built after 2014.

BWSSB Chairman N Jayaram told TNIE, "We are doing our best to make people understand the value of utilising copious rainwater. We conduct checks wherever there are bulk connections and penalise them if RWH structures are not found. But a considerable number has them only for namesake. Instead of using the water for toilet, washing or other cleaning purposes, they release it into our underground network, flooding them completely." The worst part is that this pure rainwater is again treated by BWSSB through its Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) adding to its electricity bills, he added.

A dedicated RWH sump with recharge well installed at a house in Bannerghatta Main Road | EXPRESS

Chief Engineer, Waste Water Management, BC Gangadhar said that this ruins their sewage network. "The drains are flooded due to the sudden discharge by hundreds of homes after a rainfall," he said.

KN Rajiv, Additional Chief Engineer, Maintenance, said flash floods at Koramangala and Wilson Garden last month were because of this. "Core areas in the city like Avenue Road, Chickpet, KR Market, Shantinagar, Wilson Garden among others have small houses which have been exempted. Water here directly flows into our network as there is no storm water drain in these areas."

The government is levying fine for non-installation of RWH structures which is 50 per cent of water bill for first three months for domestic purposes and 100 per cent for non-domestic use.

HOMELY CELEBRATION

With Covid restrictions in place, people chose to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with their close family and friends at home in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

'Pegasus snoopgate, an attack on electoral process'

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Pegasus snoopgate is not just about violating an individual's privacy but an attack on the integrity of the electoral process, said senior journalist Siddharth Varadarajan on Sunday.

He was speaking as a panelist in an online discussion on 'Pegasus Aftermath: Democracy under Attack; Surveillance and a subservient News Media', organised by the Gauri Memorial Trust and Citizens for Justice and Peace. "Targeting somebody like Prashant Kishor in the middle of the West Bengal election campaign where he is advising Mamata Banerjee and the TMC and the government or one of its associates authorising the tapping of his phone to my mind is an assault on the integrity of the electoral process. This is an attack not just on an individual's privacy, but also an assault on the entire electorate of West Bengal," he opined.

These are corrupt electoral practices to gain an undue advantage by installing spyware in an opponent's phone, he said.

"There is an attack on media freedom. A free press is one of the vital elements of democracy. Not just the media, there is pressure on universities, human rights defenders and social movements. There is an attempt to curtail the rights of their freedom." he added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

23rd August: Do you know how many other planets with intelligent civilisations like ours there are in the universe? Scientists say it's three hundred and sixty-one. Or anywhere between that and thirty thousand! By the way, by 'intelligent' we mean the ability to make and use radio transmitters. Mind you, that might make us intelligent, but not necessarily wise!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Among the many complex planetary cycles which are responsible for your changes of mood this year, is one which is now pushing you to ever-stronger intensity in your relationships. You may come to appreciate the possibilities for greater emotional depth!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If there is any one sign that you can learn from now, it is Libra, the balance. The simple reason is that for the next four weeks you will be obliged to carefully reconcile your interests with partners' - in spite of apparent contradictions. You'll do even better if you make a point of enjoying your family life.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Life is due to get busier, not in any dramatic sense but purely as a result of a rather steady increase in your responsibilities. There is nothing unusual in this, but I would advise you to take great care with working relationships for at least the next fortnight.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The current lunar pattern has one very specific meaning: you will, indeed must, splash out on domestic requirements, on necessities rather than luxuries. Those in the property market should move fast. Aside from that it's a rather poetic day, though perhaps disastrously impractical!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
In all family and domestic matters the ball is in your court today. It really is very much a matter of taking initiatives rather than waiting for other people, or fate, to take your decisions for you. Just remember that each action you take could have hundreds - if not thousands - of consequences.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your real feelings will be hidden today. Perhaps, then, it is best to carry on dealing with life's routine obligations in an organised and efficient manner. Financial affairs will require greater than average discretion, but then you might say, 'what's new?'

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You might have been experiencing too much nervous tension, but the signs suggest you may now relax. I would, though, advise you to keep alert for passing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. And keep on the safe side of the authorities. Don't bend the rules unless you know what you're doing!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You can afford to begin to feel just that little bit more self-important. After all, this is one of your special times. You can see the next month as building up to a major turning point in two weeks' time and winding down from there. It's also a useful moment for pressing ahead with private projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Quite uncharacteristically, you will be growing much more secretive over the next few months. Suddenly it won't seem such a smart plan to trumpet your ideas and achievements to the whole world. Perhaps that's why you should draw new friends and allies into your circle while the time is right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Professional ambitions and upheavals should now be drawing to a successful conclusion. There may still be one or two battles to fight, but generally you may be confident that the war has been won. At least, if it hasn't been won, you are now on the final stretch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Upheavals at work are now only just beginning. Over the next month you will be drawn ever deeper into professional intrigues and battles. Play your cards right and the rewards could be considerable. Everything seems to rest on what other people do, so you may have to wait for them to make the first move.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
In a general sense, your astrological indications are still quite quiet. Working relationships look good, while business matters should soon be resolved after a period of some uncertainty. You'll also be prepared to work hard at an emotional relationship, and that is very much to your credit.

THE PHANTOM

!! HEY!
THE NEW PROCEDURE IS A PICKET LINE....!
TO BE KEPT MOVING IN FRONT OF THIS DOOR....!
AT ALL TIMES!!
C'MON, YOU GUYS! THIS IS SERIOUS!
Falk 7/17

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

HOW ARE THINGS AT CAMP KID-AWAY-GO?
BORING...THEY ARE BEING REALLY CAUTIOUS!
LIKE TODAY, WE DID VIRTUAL CANOEING!
HMM...NOT AS FUN, BUT AT LEAST YOU GET TO ROAST MARSHMALLOWS, RIGHT?
NOPE! WE ONLY GET TO CLICK ON THIS MARSHMALLOW ICON, WHICH LIGHTS THE CAMPFIRE... THEN ALL PRETEND TO EAT VIRTUAL S'MORES
WOW... THAT IS CAUTIOUS!

LOCKHORNS

"NO LOAN, BUT THEY DID GIVE ME SOME OF THEIR COOL MERCH."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"YOUR MOM CALLED. SHE SAID HER TENSION HEADACHE WENT AWAY, SO YOU CAN COME HOME NOW."

SU DO KU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

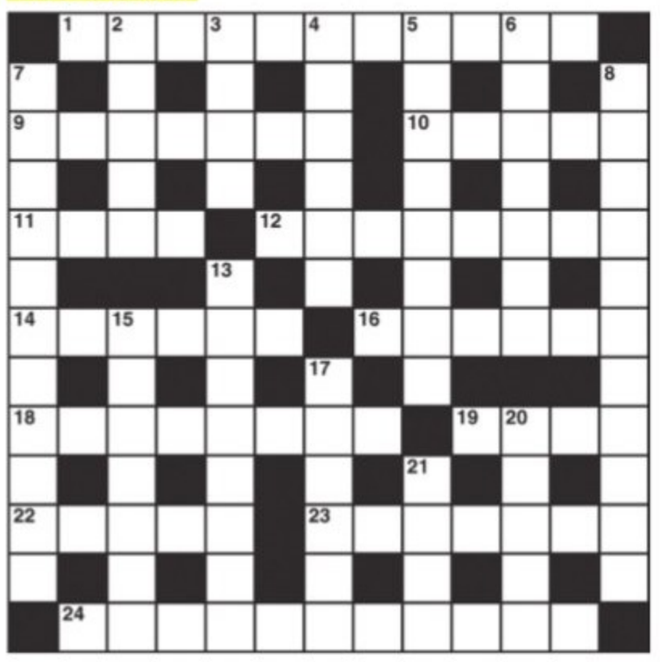
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

7		1						
	3				2	6	1	7
	8	2		9	1			4
				7		1		8
3	1			8			2	9
8		9		4				
1			5	2		9	4	
2	9	5	4				8	
						2		5

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

7	9	5	3	8	2	1	6	4
6	3	4	1	5	7	9	2	8
8	1	2	6	4	9	7	5	3
3	4	6	2	7	1	5	8	9
5	7	8	4	9	6	3	1	2
9	2	1	5	3	8	4	7	6
2	5	3	8	1	4	6	9	7
1	8	7	9	6	3	2	4	5
4	6	9	7	2	5	8	3	1

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Essential pleasure US lawyer has in mind (11)
9 The rain disturbed the lockkeeper (7)
10 Confused a dergyman with the French (5)
11 Rush in three directions at once (4)
12 Bird ablaze with love (8)
14 Ready to put in a word when required (6)
16 Value fools to a point (6)
18 He takes part in an act of duplicity (8)
19 A crystal box (4)
22 Ayr is strangely not in Scotland (5)
23 Misgiving about the foreign garment (7)
24 Sustains the new supporters (11)

DOWN

2 Untie tricky knot (5)
3 End up holding nothing? Agreed (4)
4 People do their best on theirs (6)
5 Narrow escape for the girl next door? (4,4)
6 A go-slow which could be at an end (7)
7 Professional man who goes to work on foot (11)
8 Show what discontented groups do (11)
13 What one may pay for purchases from cat shops? (4,4)
15 Speed too much and go over the limit (7)
17 A team's confidences (6)
20 He shows the way one gets into bed (5)
21 Turn up with a mother cat (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Akimbo, 4 Accredit, 9 Tussle, 10 Price cut, 12 Serf, 13 Speed, 14 Ludo, 17 Abbreviation, 20 Dissertation, 23 Omen, 24 Coach, 25 Half, 28 Obtained, 29 Porter, 30 Naturist, 31 Slacks.

Down: 1 Artesian, 2 Inscribe, 3 Bald, 5 Current price, 6 Race, 7 Dictum, 8 Tattoo, 11 April showers, 15 Gelid, 16 Loyal, 18 Gigantic, 19 Uniforms, 21 Cocoon, 22 Septet, 26 Lier, 27 Noel.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DRLEE

ROUBR

NORRYE

SCNAAV

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

TO

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
FINCH DOUSE FEISTY UNLIKE
ANSWER: They would begin playing canasta at the retire-ment center after everyone — SHUFFLED IN

The Janata Dal Secular will launch a statewide protest over pending irrigation projects in Karnataka, party supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda has said

'B'luru data on Covid cases, deaths transparent'

Study says insurance claims do not match govt data for other mega cities, points to under-reporting

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AMONG the six mega cities — Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai — Bengaluru has seen relatively better transparency in reporting Covid cases and the number of Covid deaths, a study shows.

An analysis conducted by Jeevan Raksha showed that the six mega cities reported 36,688 Covid cases in July.

However, as per data by the General Insurance Council of India, 33,241 new health insurance claims were registered for Covid treatment in these six mega cities. This means, 91 per cent of Covid-positive patients had group or individual health insurance for Covid (PM-JAY and other government scheme beneficiaries are excluded) in July. According to the IRDA report of state-wise health insurance, only 2 per cent of India's population is covered under Group / Individual Health Insurance (non-government schemes).

Ideally, as per health insurance penetration in India, the percentage of Covid insurance claims in mega cities should be in the range of 10-20 per cent. A higher percentage of claims signifies under-reporting of Covid cases and deaths.

For instance, Ahmedabad reported 283 Covid cases in July, but there were 5,009 new medical insurance claims registered for Covid, which is 18 times higher than the reported Covid cases, with the insurance claims percentage being 1,770 per cent. Similarly, eight deaths were reported in the same period, whereas 81 deaths have been registered in July, which is 1,013 per cent more.

In Delhi, 2,077 cases were reported in the same month, and 9,192 medical insurance claims were made, bringing it to 443 per cent. Meanwhile, 46 deaths were reported and 149 claims made, with the death claim coming to 196 per cent.

However, in Bengaluru, 13,780 cases were reported and 4,991 claims were made, with the insurance claim percentage coming to 36. There were 246 deaths, and 38 insurance claims, which shows 15 per cent death claims, pointing to a lower prevalence of under-reporting.

Sanjeev Mysore, convener of Jeevan Raksha, said, "Bengaluru Urban has been relatively the most transparent mega city, with respect to Covid data disclosure. It is the only mega city which issues a comprehensive daily bulletin, independent of the state Covid bulletin, and continues to disclose daily testing data and other crucial data to the public. In July, insurance claims for Covid deaths and the total Covid deaths in Bengaluru Urban, are by and large in sync with the percentage of population covered with group or individual health insurance. This validates that there was limited under-reporting of Covid deaths in Bengaluru Urban."

He added, "If the third wave arrives, the states and cities that reported correct data will have the least impact. On the other hand, the ones that are currently under-reporting to appease the political establishment and for electoral gain, may have to unfortunately identify new and bigger burial grounds, which we witnessed in some states during the second wave."

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

CITIES	COVID CASES IN JULY	INSURANCE CLAIMS FOR TREATMENT	PERCENTAGE OF CLAIM
Ahmedabad	283	5,009	1,770%
Delhi	2,077	9,192	443%
Chennai	5,623	5,177	92%
Mumbai	12,557	7,476	60%
Kolkata	2,368	1,396	59%
Bengaluru	13,780	4,991	36%
MEGA CITIES	36,688	33,241	91%

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

1,189 CASES REPORTED TODAY

TODAY 29,38,616

YESTERDAY 29,37,427

1,350 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

DEATHS — TODAY 22 | YESTERDAY 18

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until August 22, 2021, a total of 29,38,616 cases have been reported in 1 year and 163 days...

DISCHARGES — TODAY 1,456 | YESTERDAY 1,648

ACTIVE CASES — TODAY 20,556 | YESTERDAY 20,845

POSITIVITY RATE — TODAY 7.02% | YESTERDAY 7.04%

The day positivity rate - **0.94%** is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of **100 tests** conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE — TODAY 1.26% | YESTERDAY 1.26%

RECOVERY RATE — TODAY 98.03% | YESTERDAY 98.02%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

267 BENGALURU URBAN

12 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	4
Ballari	5
Belagavi	34
Bidar	3
Chamarajanagar	8
Chikkaballapura	1
Chikkamagaluru	50
Chitradurga	10
Dakshina Kannada	286
Davanagere	19
Dharwad	4
Gadag	2
Hassan	75
Haveri	1
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	55
Kolar	8
Koppal	1
Mandya	19
Mysuru	79
Raichur	1
Ramanagara	5
Shivamogga	24
Tumakuru	39
Udupi	132
Uttara Kannada	40
Vijayapura	2
Yadgir	3

FATALITY RATE HIGHEST AMONG 90-99 AGE GROUP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

GOING by the state Covid-19 War Room data, the case fatality rate is the highest in the 90 to 99 age group, at 12%. This is followed by 7.7% in the 80 to 89 age group, and 6% in the 70 to 79 age bracket. However, as per absolute numbers, the 60 to 69 age group has the highest number of Covid deaths, at 10,692, followed by the 50 to 59 age group (8,181 deaths), 70 to 79 age group (7,236), 80 to 89 category (2,668), and 90 to 99 age group with 540 deaths. With 22 deaths on Sunday, the Covid toll rose to 37,145, with the fatality rate at 1.26%. Of the day's deaths, six were 70 years and above, and nine were aged between 60 and 69, while seven were aged below 60.

In Bengaluru, two deaths took place, recording the second lowest daily death figure in the city for the third time since August 18. This took the city's toll to 15,959, while the fatality rate remained at 1.29%. Statewide, there were 1,189 fresh Covid cases on Sunday, taking the state's tally to 29,38,616. But the positivity rate — which has been on the decline without a break since June 6 — has come down to 7%, from the previous day's 7.02%. The recovery rate has increased to 98.03 per cent, with 1,456 discharges.

Bengaluru clocks positivity rate of under 1% for over 40 days

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

WITH Covid cases steadily decreasing in the state, Bengaluru's positivity rate has consistently remained below 1 per cent over the past 40 days.

According to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), from July 12 to August 21, the positivity rate of the city has been less than 1 per cent. Back on July 12, the positivity rate was 0.62 per cent and July 18 saw a drop at 0.55 per cent, July 24, saw the lowest positivity rate with only 0.27 per cent.

Going by zone-wise positivity rate for the last week, Mahadevapura zone has 0.63 per cent positivity rate followed by Bommanahalli at 0.59 per cent, Rajarajeshwari Nagar with 0.50 per cent, Yelahanka at 0.45 per cent, South zone and East zone with 0.42 per cent and 0.40 per cent and West and Dasarahalli zone at 0.24 per cent each.

The positivity rate is nothing but the number of positives per 100 tests. Bengaluru's average single day testing has been between 50,000-60,000 tests. Until August 20, the city has conducted over 1,79,29,475 tests.

> **Strict containment measures have ensured that cases don't increase in the district. Marshals have been deployed in markets and they are also conducting random tests in the crowded areas of the city**
>
> Randeep D
> Special Commissioner, BBMP

The experts attributed the low number of cases and low positivity rate to the high vaccination carried out in the city. Dr C N Manjunath, Director, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, State Nodal Officer for Covid testing said, "Karnataka's daily count of Covid cases is around 1500. It is static. We have been seeing a spike in cases in districts like Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Mysuru, however, Bengaluru's cases have remained low. It could be the natural course of the virus, wherein we see a reduction in numbers after four months of the peak stage. This time we saw the peak during May and now we have to see how it goes on till October and November."

The scare was with Kerala and Maharashtra recording more numbers of cases, with both bordering our districts. The state government has taken strict action near borders.

He further added that the highest number of vaccinations have been carried out in Bengaluru and also the testing was high. "People should follow all Covid protocols to ensure that cases are low," he added.

Randeep D, Special Commissioner, BBMP said, "Strict containment measures have ensured that cases don't increase in the district. Marshals have been deployed in markets and they are also conducting random tests in the crowded areas of the city. The RWAs have also cooperated well with us."

Bengaluru is second in the country in terms of vaccine coverage. First is Delhi with 1,22,31,840 inoculations, followed by Bengaluru with 96,16,935, Mumbai at third spot with 86,65,037.

WAITING IN HOPE

A fruit vendor waits for customers on a deserted street in Mysuru during the weekend curfew on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

COVID BYTES

Vax scarcity slows down inoculation drive in Udupi

UDUPI: The lack of vaccine availability is still a concern in Udupi district, as the inoculation drive is not moving at the expected speed. Though the target is to cover all those aged above 18 years with the first dose by February 2022, officials say that everything depends on how many vaccines are supplied. Though a huge quantity of doses is available at private hospitals, people seem to be waiting for free jabs at government facilities. Dr Ram M G, district vaccination officer, said while the requirement is 20,000 vaccine doses per day, this quantity is supplied for three days. "We planned to hold vaccination sessions at schools and in temple halls, but due to unavailability of doses, things are not moving as per the plan," he said. **ENS**

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR
Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005
Phone : 0141-2740170(0) e-mail: ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No: F()/ACE/PHED/Jr.City Div. JJN/NIT-82/2021-22/6658-79 Date: 4.8.2021

(e-NIT NO. 82/2021-22)

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan online tenders are hereby invited from eligible bidders for the "Augmentation / Conversion of various RWSS to provide FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of various SVS & MVS under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED City Division Jhunjhunu District : Jhunjhunu, Block : Udaipurwati" Rs. 3.46 Crore - NIT NO. 82/2021-22" as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites : https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule.

NIT No.	NIB No.	UBN No.
82/2021-22	PHE2122A2616	PHE2122WS0B05831

Sd/- (Arun Srivastava)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur
DIPR/C/7833/2021
"SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited
Registered Office : Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266
Bangalore Branch: Star Avenue, No.1 (78), 3rd Floor, 6th Cross, Victoria Layout, Victoria Road, Beside Vijaya Bank, Bangalore – 560025

DEMAND NOTICE U/s 13(2)

You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention has stood as borrower/co- borrower guarantor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the defaulters committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non- performing asset under the provisions of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). We Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited had issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The notices sent to you by the Registered Post are received back & returned unserved. The contents of the said notices are that you had committed default in payment of the various loans guaranteed to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002:

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Account, Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Details of the security to be enforced	Date of Demand Notice / NPA Date	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1	**Loan Account No. LNBANHL_-04180036900, LNBANHL_-04180037899, LNBANHL_-04180039349** **01. Mr.M.Ramesh** #82, 6th Cross, 24th Main Road, Near Thirumala Theatre, HSR Layout, 1st Sector, Bangalore – 560102 **02. Mrs.Lakshmamma K Yadav,** #82, 6th Cross, 24th Main Road, Near Thirumala Theatre, HSR Layout, 1st Sector, Bangalore – 560102 **03. M/s.Sri Fuel Company,** Rep.by its Proprietor Mr.M.Ramesh, No.92/3D, Chikkabanavara, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore - 560090	All the piece and parcel of property bearing No.1, formed out of Survey No.4, Bytrayanapura CMC Khata.No.1194/1/4/1, situated at Doddabommasandra village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North taluk measuring East to West 45 feet and North to south 30 feet measuring 1350 sq.ft., the house constructed in ground floor 6 square, first floor 6 square total 12 square RCC roofing with mosaic Flooring wood doors and steel windows and bounded on the, North by Remaining owners of property, South by Property of Muniyamma, East by Government property, West by Road	10-August-2021 31.07.2021	Rs.92,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.08.2021.
2	**Loan Account No. LNMYS0HL-12200078071, LNMYS0HL-12200078072** **01. Mr.R.M.Devamanikantan,** #662 NMIG-B, 1st Floor, 5th Phase, Opposite Cotton World, Yelahanka New Town Bangalore, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka - 560064 **01a. Mr.R.M.Devamanikantan,** First Division Assistant, Directorate of Municipal Administration, 9th Floor, Vishveshwaraih Tower, Bengaluru – 560001 **02. Ms.B.Stella,** #662 NMIG-B, 1st Floor, 5th Phase, Opposite Cotton World, Yelahanka New Town Bangalore, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka - 560064	All the piece and parcel of property bearing Southern Portion of No. MIG-2342, House AT, Kenchalagud, Mysore, Mysore South, Karnataka, 570008	10-August-2021 31.07.2021	Rs.21,32,307/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Seven Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.08.2021.

You are hereby called upon to pay Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost failing which Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrowers, mortgagors and the guarantors. The power available to the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the said act include (1) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrowers/guarantors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer by ways of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets transferred as it the transfer has been made by you.

In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13(13) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to above and hypothecated/mortgaged to the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited without prior consent of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

Place: Bangalore
Date: 23-08-2021
Signed by Authorized Officer,
Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

ANNAPOORNESHWARINAGAR BRANCH
No.02, Sri Kamala, 60 Ft Road, 11th Cross, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560091, Ph: 080-23188779
Email : bm2131@unionbankofindia.com

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, Annapoorneshwarinagar Branch, No.02, Sri Kamala, 60 Ft Road, 11Th Cross, Annapoorneshwari nagar, Bangalore-560091, Email:bm2131@unionbankofindia.com, Ph: 080-23188779
Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: Borrowers: (1) Mr.P Ashokan, No.28/2, 2nd Main Road, Hosakerehalli layout, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bangalore-560085. **Guarantor: (1) Mrs.Lakshmi,** No.28/2, 2nd main Road, Hosakerehalli layout, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bangalore -560085.

Amount due: Rs.32,57,385/- as on 17-08-2021 plus interest and other charges.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of the property consisting of plot bearing Site No.2384/1, Sy no.8/16, situated at Gidadhakonenahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore north, Bangalore-560061, East to West : 20 feet and North to South : 40 feet, Boundaries : East : Site No. 2384, West by : Site No. 2385, North : Site No. 2369, South : Road.

Date and time of E-Auction: 15-09-2021 from 11 AM to 2 P.M. (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions) E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com.
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
Reserve price: Rs. 34,00,000/-
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.3,40,000/-

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in**
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.
The online E-auction will be held through website: **sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com.**
For E-auction Related queries Please contact : Ph: 080-23188779.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 21.08.2021
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

In Remembrance

SRI B. S. NARAYAN
Donor Trustee
03.03.1932 - 23.08.1995

Time rolls, but memories remain evergreen. It is now 26 years but your memories of strong leadership and hard work will continue to guide us, through the path you had chosen for the Trust. Your blessings will enable us to take the *trust to the* heights you visualized.
Your vision will motivate us forever.

Fondly Remembered by;
Dr. B.S. Ragini Narayan
Donor Trustee, BMS Educational Trust
Life Trustee, BMS Hospital Trust
Trustees, Management and Staff of BMSET

QuoteExpress
ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD › STEWART BRAND

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Ministers at it again, lobby for dists now

As if it isn't bad enough that CM Basavaraj Bommai has to break his head over cabinet portfolio allocation, some ministers are said to be kicking up a row over the districts they have been allotted. Bommai is trying to firefight dissidence over portfolios, and mollify sulking ministers Anand Singh, MTB Nagaraj and B Sriramulu, but infighting refuses to die down. The ministers have been given temporary charge of districts to supervise flood and Covid relief, but a few have started lobbying hard for districts of their choice. Not surprisingly, many have cast an eye on Bengaluru Urban, that is currently with Revenue Minister R Ashoka.

Jolle turns egg scam on its head

While Hiriyur BJP MLA Poornima Srinivas was campaigning for the Sira bypoll for party candidate Dr C M Rajesh Gowda, her husband Srinivas was campaigning for himself, as independent candidate from South East Graduates MLC seat. When BJP candidate Chidananada Gowda won as MLC, Poornima emerged as the ministerial candidate, having done her bit. She and her supporters, mostly from the Golla community, were ecstatic. But her long wait for the CM's call yielded little. A disheartened Poornima took to social media and accused the high command of reinducting Shashikala Jolle as minister, though the latter was allegedly involved in an egg supply scam. Jolle showed her political mettle as she swiftly turned things around, managing to convince the high command that Poornima's husband allegedly sent his henchman to trap Jolle. Similarly, Madhuswamy got a berth despite complaints from party members, though it is said that a Sira minority leader with BJP connections helped Madhuswamy.

BSY returns from Maldivian shores

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is set to return to Bengaluru on Monday from the exotic locales of the Maldives. The 78-year-old took off for a well-deserved break with family and friends, far from the madding, bickering crowd. While his family and supporters maintain that he needed the getaway, party folk are wary of Yediyurappa's sudden trip. He is expected to resume his activities on the political front, starting with a visit to the assembly to show his support for debutant CM Bommai, if only for a day. Yediyurappa, much like last time when he returned from a family foreign trip, faces corruption charges and court dates in a case filed by activist TJ Abraham.

Crackdown likely soon on illegal overseas recruiters

Protector of Emigrants office in B'luru shares list of legal agencies with city police commissionerates, district police

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

TAKING advantage of the severe dearth of jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and people's desperation to get employed, illegal and fake overseas recruiters have flourished in the state, duping hundreds of people.

But the Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) office, situated in Bengaluru, is keeping an eye on these illegal recruiters and is likely to crack down on them soon. Recently, it shared a list of legal overseas recruitment agencies with all city police commissionerates and district police in the State. The police, with the help of various licensing and other government agencies, has been gathering information about such illegal agencies to bring them to book.

Some time ago, the Mangaluru city police made public the list of authorised overseas recruiters operating in its jurisdiction. Soon after, they started getting complaints from several victims of illegal recruitment agencies. Based on these complaints, the police have so far arrested two persons and dispatched a team to Tamil Nadu to arrest the third one. The gang, after promising nursing jobs in Australia and Lithuania, had cheated over 20 people of Rs 3 lakh each.

> **People want to make quick money and fall for tall promises and lose money. If an office boy is promised a manager's job, he should be able to see through the lie**
>
> Santosh Poojary of Skyway Recruiters

A senior police officer said illegal agents use middlemen and will have no direct contact with their victims. The middlemen collect the money, keep their commission and give the rest to main agents. Covid has come as an advantage for them as they keep telling the victims that the job offer letters have been delayed because of the pandemic and the departure would take time with a ban on international flights, he added.

Santosh Poojary of Skyway Recruiters, an overseas recruiting agency operating from Mangaluru, said that almost all illegal recruitment agencies operating in the city shut down after the PoE office was set up in Bengaluru two years ago. But they continue to cheat people even without offices. The victims are mostly overambitious and do not check the background of such fake recruiters, he added.

"People want to make quick money and fall for tall promises and lose money. If an office boy is promised a manager's job, he should be able to see through the lie," he advised.

He said the overseas job market is down by 90 per cent and even those who get hired find it difficult to travel due to big expenses involved for mandatory quarantine in neighbouring countries before entering their destination country.

Sources said that absence of frequent checks on fake agencies has allowed them to flourish. The MEA website states that every month, a list of illegal agents reported to the government from the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayta Kendra (PBSK) is sent to respective State governments for launching investigation and prosecution to reduce illegal recruitment. But such exercises do not take place frequently, the sources added.

JDS plans padayatra over water disputes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Janata Dal Secular will launch a statewide protest over pending irrigation projects in Karnataka, party supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda has said.

In an attempt to counter criticisms that JDS will become redundant in the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka, Gowda said he will revive the party's fortunes through protests.

"Resolving issues around Upper Krishna, Mekedatu and Mahadayi projects are our priority. We will launch a statewide padayatra under the leadership of HD Kumaraswamy soon after the Assembly session ends. I, because of my age, won't be able to take part in the padayatra... but I will participate symbolically in rallies and congregations," Gowda told reporters here on Saturday.

Regarding the Mekedatu issue, he said some leaders from Tamil Nadu he had spoken to had advocated a reservoir on the Cauvery river at Hogenakkal on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, and not Mekedatu in Ramanagara district. "A reservoir at Hogenakkal would mean encompassing a large catchment area whereas in Mekedatu, the catchment area is small," Gowda said. The former prime minister said only a regional outfit like JDS could find a solution to these two river water disputes and not any national party. "Both-Congress and BJP don't fight for Karnataka's concerns but JDS will," Gowda added.

Gowda also rued the unruly scenes in the Rajya Sabha and wastage of the recently concluded Parliament session.

'Rahul Gandhi needs to walk the extra mile'

Speaking about the possibility of a united opposition to take on the BJP in the future, Gowda said that each regional party was strong in their respective states. "Rahul Gandhi needs to walk an extra mile to hone his political skills," Gowda said, wondering what the Congress leader had achieved by taking out a bicycle rally recently to protest hike in fuel price.

"We did not get to discuss key issues like inflation, fuel prices that are affecting people in the Parliament. I have never seen such disrespectful behaviour in the House in all of my career," Gowda said.

A JDS worker ties a rakhi to party supremo and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

TB Jayachandra

JC Madhuswamy

> **Resolving issues around Upper Krishna, Mekedatu and Mahadayi projects are our priority. We will launch a statewide padayatra soon after the upcoming Assembly session ends**
>
> **We did not get to discuss key issues like inflation, fuel prices that are affecting people in Parliament. I have never seen such disrespectful behaviour in the House in my entire career**
>
> HD Deve Gowda, JDS supremo

JAYACHANDRA THREATENS LAW MINISTER WITH CONTEMPT CASE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

TUMAKURU'S political heavyweights, former law minister and Congress leader TB Jayachandra and present law minister JC Madhuswamy, were locked in a political war over an important water body, Madaluru tank, which is the lifeline of Sira.

Jayachandra and former additional advocate general Brijesh Kalappa here on Sunday said that they would move a contempt petition before the Karnataka High Court against Madhuswamy as he had reportedly instructed officials not to release the Hemavathy river water to Madaluru tank.

They said that 0.4 tmcft of water had been allocated to fill the tank in 2008, but BJP leaders D Krishnakumar and others moved the high court in 2012. Justice BV Nagarathna on January 9, 2013 ordered that water for drinking water purposes should be given priority, especially in arid areas. Despite the ruling, Madhuswamy is objecting to filling up of Madaluru tank, they said.

During the bypolls, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa had promised to fill the tank, but went back on his word after winning the election, he added.

Jayachandra said that he and his supporters were planning a massive padayatra from Sira to Tumakuru, but deferred it because of Covid-related restrictions. "The law laid down by the Supreme Court is clear that such schemes cannot be denied water," they said, adding that refilling the tank is in consonance with the National and State water policies.

They said Madhuswamy objected to filling the tank claiming that it was an interbasin transfer. Kalappa, who was the advocate for Karnataka at the Supreme Court in the Cauvery water dispute case, listed many cases where inter-basin transfers have occurred.

TOUGH TALK

Yatnal: Will defy Covid-19 restrictions for Ganesha fest

ENS @ Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA City MLA and BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has said that if the State Government imposes Covid-19 restrictions on Ganesha Chaturthi and other Hindu festivals, he will defy them. A purported video of the MLA taking a jibe at the government for imposing restrictions on Ganesha Chaturthi went viral on Sunday. Yatnal was addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for a 50-bed mother and child health centre at the district hospital.

Yatnal, in the past too, had criticised the Basavaraj Bommai government for imposing Covid-19 restrictions on the celebration of Ganesha Chathurthi or other festivals.

"I have brought this to the notice of the CM during his visit to the Almatti reservoir on Saturday. If any laws or restrictions are imposed on Hindu festivals, I will ensure that they are not followed... at least in Vijayapura. What can they (authorities) do? At the most, they can shoot me," he said. "I have urged the CM to withdraw the restrictions imposed on Ganesha Chaturthi. He has agreed to withdraw them. I urge people to celebrate Ganesha Chaturthi without any fear," he added.

Expressing unhappiness over the government's decision to impose weekend curfew, the former Union minister said, "I wonder on what basis experts are insisting on weekend curfew.... it is unscientific."

Shivakumar slams Ravi for I-Day comment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

COME Independence Day, and patriotic fervour flows, but among politicians, it takes a different twist. Two senior politicians — KPCC president D K Shivakumar and BJP national general secretary in-charge of Tamil Nadu CT Ravi, both Vokkaligas — were locked in a slugfest over India's Independence.

Responding sarcastically to Ravi's claims that it was due to BJP leaders' efforts that India won Independence in 1947, Shivakumar said it was because of C T Ravi that India was now a free country.

Ravi also stated that Congress leaders need to visit a mental health institute, to which Shivakumar sarcastically said, "Yes, we will take Ravi's statement seriously and visit Nimhans."

Asked about Vinay Kulkarni, Shivakumar said he is a part of the Congress and if the authorities are seeking to book him for violating Covid norms, BJP leaders who undertook Janashirvad Yatra and violated Covid norms should also be booked. The government cannot apply rules and laws selectively, he said.

On ED raids against MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan, Shivakumar said Khan has personally clarified the issue, and we have to stand with those who are victims of political vendatta. It may be recalled that Shivakumar was himself arrested and spent more than 50 days in custody after raids against him, which started after he sheltered party MLAs from Gujarat, fearing that they would be poached during the Lok Sabha elections.

IN CROSSHAIRS

Misuse of guns forces cops to rethink licensing

DIVYA CUTINHO @ Mangaluru

THE gun culture seems to be taking root in Daksina Kannada. A spurt in the number of applicants for firearm licences and their misuse in the district over the last two years has been a cause of concern and made the authorities rethink the procedure of sanctioning the licences.

Though the authorities have been cancelling or rejecting the licences, there seems to be no end to the misuse of licensed weapons with five such cases being reported in the Mangaluru city police limits between January and August this year. Five legal firearms, which were issued for agriculture purposes, were misused for hunting and dacoity. The police have also seized three illegal unlicensed weapons.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Mangaluru city, Hariram Shankar, said that the department has made sanctioning of licences strict. "There is an unnecessary proliferation of weapons, which is not a healthy trend. This year, we have issued only five licences out of 23 applications, all for self-protection. In the city limits, we have 2,061 gun licences, including those issued for agriculture purposes. We have been cautious and not recommended issuing of new licences. When there no threat perception, why issue weapons? People who had two weapons were made to either sell or surrender one firearm. For people above 60 years old, we insist on the fitness certificate to keep the weapons," he said.

The strict measures have led to a decline in applications for new licences as compared to last year. The top choice of people for agricultural purposes is single and double-barrel guns, while for self-protection, it is the revolver. The police said people are now shifting to pistols for self-protection.

As per data with the forest department, the number of applicants for new licences has increased from just five in 2018 to 33 in 2021 in the district. Till July this year, 15 applications were received which are forwarded to the deputy commissioner who is the final authority to approve them. In 2019, 23 applications were received.

Dr Dinesh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of forests, Mangaluru division, said that an increase in applications is an alarming trend and could lead to offences like poaching and smuggling. Last week, Mangaluru city police arrested 12 people on charges of hunting a wild boar misusing guns issued for crop protection in Moodbidri.

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar and DCP Hariram Shankar with the seized licenced guns used for hunting in Moodbidri recently

GTD, SON HARISH TO JOIN CONG IN TIME FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

WITH panchayat elections around the corner — considered the semifinals ahead of assembly elections — the stage is set for political polarisation with many prominent JDS leaders likely to join the Congress.

The Congress, keen to win as many seats as possible in the panchayat elections, and wrest power in its home turf, Old Mysuru, has started doing its homework. Siddaramaiah knows the party should win a good number of seats in this belt to draw prominent leaders into its fold, so as to weaken the JDS, that has a considerable base here.

The first big exit from the JDS could be disgruntled Chamundeshwari MLA G T Devegowda, who has maintained a distance from his party, and is reportedly set to join the Congress with his son Harish.

It is said that Opposition leader Siddaramaiah is not in favour of accommodating both Devegowda and his son in the assembly polls, and suggested that one should contest the assembly election and the other could be the candidate for Mysuru Lok Sabha seat. But Devegowda is insisting that they be given tickets from Chamundeshwari and Hunsur assembly seats, claiming they can win from both the seats.

Sources said that Devegowda has held talks with his followers on his political move and set the stage for his son and MDCC Bank president Harish Gowda's entry into the Congress. It is said that Devegowda will not come under the anti-defection law as he has decided to remain a JDS member and will join the Congress during the election. Devegowda also wanted his followers to be accommodated in the taluk and zilla panchayat polls.

Meanwhile, a few senior JDS leaders are keen to retain G T Devegowda and have appealed to former prime minister H D Deve Gowda to hold talks with him. But Devegowda has repeatedly appealed to the JDS supremo not to visit him for a truce as he has given his word to Siddaramaiah. He is also upset with the internal bickering due to political rivalry between him and former minister Sa Ra Mahesh.

It may be recalled that then CM H D Kumaraswamy had announced a plum post for Devegowda for defeating sitting CM Siddaramaiah in Chamundeshwari, but he was made higher education minister, turning down his plea for the cooperation portfolio. Devegowda kept away from the Hunsur bypoll campaign, and supported the Congress candidate, and was also upset as Sa Ra Mahesh was calling the shots in the HDK cabinet.

About 130 Covid warriors were felicitated by KPCC president DK Shivakumar, KPCC working-president Saleem Ahmed and AGDP (Railways) Bhaskar Rao at a function in Bengaluru on Sunday

CRIME PATROL

MBA graduate found stabbed to death

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old man was found stabbed to death in Soladevanahalli on Saturday and police suspect that people known to the victim could be behind the crime. The deceased, Ravi Kumar, an unemployed MBA graduate, was living in Hesaraghatta. A senior police officer said that around 7 pm, Kumar had gone to meet his friends at the Acharya College grounds. However, he was later discovered lying in a pool of blood at the same location by some passersby, who alerted the police. He was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. It is suspected that Kumar was involved in a financial dispute with some friends. **ENS**

120 people quizzed over couple's murder

Bengaluru: The Kumaraswamy Layout police, who are investigating the murder of an elderly couple, have questioned about 120 people including their friends, and relatives. "We have definite clues about the assailants and an arrest will be made in two days," a senior police officer said. Speaking to TNIE, DCP (South) Harish Pandey said, "We have questioned more than 100 people, including previous tenants, who were living on the property owned by the couple -- Shantharaju and Premalatha. Based on a complaint by Latha, a niece of the deceased, a case has been registered and some of the suspects. **ENS**

Cops nab 14 suspects, solve 36 cases

Bengaluru: The South East Division police have arrested 14 people, recovering stolen property and narcotic substances worth Rs 7.81 crore. With this, 36 cases have been cracked. The Begur police have cracked 15 cases, while Mico Layout and Suddaguntepalya police have solved eight cases each. Parappana Agrahara police have solved three cases, while Hulimavu and Electronics City police have solved one case each. In all, 19 two-wheelers, a car, 1.210 kg of gold jewellery, 2.100 kg of silver articles, counterfeit currency, 2.250 kg of opium, and 5.100 kg of ambergris have been recovered. **ENS**

Man swallows gold chain on being caught

Bengaluru: A chain-snatcher, who was caught by the public, swallowed a part of the gold chain he had stolen. The incident took place in City Market police station limits on Saturday night, and the accused has been hospitalised. Vijay (21), along with his associates Sanjay and Prem, allegedly snatched a gold chain from a woman, identified as Hema, when she was returning home from a shop on MT Street on Saturday. "Fearing he would be beaten up, he swallowed the chain and told people that it was taken by his associates. He was taken to Victoria Hospital, and during a scan, doctors detected the chain in his stomach," the police said. **ENS**

FOURTH FROM TN

Veteran BJP leader Ganesan is Manipur Guv

76-year-old has served RSS for 20 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

PRESIDENT Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday appointed veteran BJP politician L Ganesan the Governor of Manipur. Ganesan is the fourth Governor from Tamil Nadu after the BJP-led Union government assumed office in 2014.

The 76-year-old national executive member of the party became active in the RSS at a young age and became a full-time *pracharak in* 1970. For about 20 years, Ganesan served the RSS in various capacities in Nagercoil, Madurai, and other places.

In 1991, he joined the BJP and became an organising secretary of its state unit. Ten years later, he was promoted as the national secretary of the party. Ganesan also served as one of the national vice-presidents for two years. Between 2006 and 2009, Ganesan was the president of the Tamil Nadu BJP. Besides various party postings, Ganesan also served as a Rajya Sabha member from Madhya Pradesh for over one year. At present, he is one of the national executive committee members. For the past 12 years, Ganesan has been heading Pot*ramarai, a lit*erary and cultural organisation that organises speeches on literary topics by reputable personalities.

In a congratulatory message, Governor Banwarilal Purohit said: "I am delighted to know that Thiru La. Ganesan has been appointed as Governor of Manipur. I congratulate Thiru La. Ganesan and extend my best wishes for glorious service to the people of Manipur. I wish him peaceful and successful tenure in Manipur."

Ballari woman, Afghan husband land in Delhi

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Ballari

IT was a happy moment for a family in Ballari after their daughter and her husband landed in New Delhi from Afghanistan on Sunday.

Thanveen Ballari, who married Afghanistan citizen Sayed Jalal in 2018, has been staying in Kabul for the last three years. Jalal is an engineer and has been working with a construction company there.

As the conditions in Afghanistan started worsening, Thanveen's parents in Sandur of Ballari were shocked. They approached the district administration on behalf of their son-in-law. However, the family members were worried when their phones became unreachable. The couple was among the 400-odd Indians who were evacuated from Afghanistan on Sunday.

A family member of Thanveen said that they have been asking the couple to move back to India for a long time. "They had to stay put as they had jobs there. However, when the situation in the country started worsening, the couple got more and more worried. Thank God they are back home. I request the district administration to make arrangements for us to meet or talk to them."

Thanveen Ballari and her husband Sayed Jalal reached Delhi on Sunday

An official from the district administration's office said, "So far, there has been no communication from New Delhi about the whereabouts of the couple. We will try to contact them again and will soon come back with some information."

> *The accused has confessed about posting pro-Taliban comments on Facebook. He has been booked under Indian Penal Code section 295 (deliberately hurting the religious sentiments) and an investigation is under way*
>
> Lokesh Jagalasar, SP

Contractor held for pro-Taliban comment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bagalkot

A 36-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly posting pro-Taliban comments on a Facebook post in Jamkhandi on August 20. Asif Galgali, a flooring contractor and resident of Jamkhandi town, is now behind the bars for posting a comment 'I Love Taliban', on a Facebook post about Taliban.

This comment at a time when the extremist group Taliban was taking control of Afghanistan. This has enraged a section of people and resulted in minor protests against Asif and demanding action against him.

Nadaf Yakub filed a complaint against Asif at Jamkhandi police station after the post went viral on WhatsApp and other social networking sites. Asif went underground as soon as he came to know that police was searching for him. However, cops succeeded in arresting the 36-year-old and sent him to judicial custody.

Speaking to reporters, SP Lokesh Jagalasar said, "The accused has confessed about posting pro-Taliban comments on Facebook. He has been booked under Indian Penal Code section 295 (deliberately hurting the religious sentiments) and an investigation is under way."

SANDALWOOD SMUGGLER SHOT DEAD, 3 OTHERS MISSING

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

FOREST staff shot dead a sandalwood smuggler at Kamplapura Sandalwood Reserve at Huliyurudurga forests range in Kunigal taluk on Saturday.

The deceased, aged around 30-35 years, is yet to be identified but he has 'Eshwara' in tattooed on his hand, in Kannada. Three other accused involved in chopping off sandalwood trees managed to escape. The forest staff on regular patrolling heard the sound and discovered the gang with a lot of chopped sandalwood.

The accused pelted stones and tried to escape. But, the deceased got stuck in the lantena groove and when the forest guard Shekar tried to catch him, the former attacked him with a machete.

As the guard sustained serious injury on his palm and collapsed, deputy range forest officer Mahesh first shot at air with the double barrel gun to scare the accused. Since the accused was on a rage, the DRFO shot him dead and saved the guard who was later shifted to a hospital. Another forest watcher Sharanappa and two others on daily wages were part of the operation.

Deputy Commissioner Y S Patil along and senior officers examine the spot where a sandalwood smuggler was shot dead in Kunigal taluk, Tumakuru district

The Huliyurudurga police have seized saws and crowbars from the spot. The gang had camped in the forest overnight to chop the precious trees.

"The gang seems like professional smugglers as they had even dug for the roots of the sandalwood trees that yield oil," observed deputy conservator of forests Dr S Ramesh.

Deputy Commissioner Y S Patil and SP Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad also visited the spot.

This is the first such instance of a sandalwood smuggler being encountered in the district. The body of the accused is kept at the district general hospital morgue for the identification but no one has claimed it.

Flood threat looms again in Godavari

ENS @ Rajamahendravaram

FLOOD level in the Godavari is steadily rising again at Dowleswaram barrage with increasing inflows following heavy rains in the upper catchment areas of the river. According to officials at the Dowleswaram Barrage control room, the water level at the barrage increased to 10.50 feet, and around 2.20 lakh cusecs water was discharged from the barrage into the sea.

The water level at Polavaram project upper cofferdam was at 29 metres and expected to rise in the coming days. Due to Polavaram backwater, low lying areas in 23 villages of Devipatnam mandal, East Godavari and 19 villages in Polavaram mandal of West Godavari remained cut off.

Most residents have been evacuated and shifted to R and R colonies constructed on higher grounds.

WELCOMING THE LORD

Artisans from Rajasthan carry idols of Lord Krishna ahead of Janmashtami at CTH Road on the outskirts of Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Post-Onam surge likely for 3 weeks in Kerala, say experts

A file picture of heavy rush at Broadway Market as people make last-minute purchases for Onam | EXPRESS

UNNIKRISHNAN S @T'Puram

ONAM festivities are barely over and the state is already experiencing a Covid surge, with the test positivity rate going past 17%.

Health experts say in the next three weeks, new cases are likely to go further up – nearly as high as the figures reported during the peak of the second wave in the May second week. There will also be a marginal rise in ICU and ventilator occupancy, though the number of severe infection cases will be comparatively less, thanks to the vaccination coverage and immunity developed after recovering from Covid.

As an immediate impact of the post-Onam surge, more local body wards may come under lockdown, based on the density of positive cases calculated in a week. Experts say that the rise in the number of infected is yet to get reflected in the government statements. Besides, the festival period is marked by the low number of daily tests.

Centenarian 'dolu' artiste Guruva no more

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

CENTENARIAN 'dolu' artiste and Karnataka Rajyotsava awardee Guruva Koraga breathed his last in Udupi on Sunday.

The 105-year-old started beating 'dolu' (a type of drum) when he was 12 years old and performed till a long time at temple festivals and kambalas. Despite never having attended school, Guruva had spoken about the importance of education for tribal Koraga community.

As the upper caste community did not allow Koragas to enter temples, Guruva was known for beating his dolu rhythmically, standing some distance away from the temple premises during festivals.

Hailing from Nandikur, he later built his house at Guddeangady near Hiriyadka. He was well-versed in weaving baskets. Guruva could play his 15-kg dolu for about two hours, enthralling the audience. He taught this art to many youngsters and has several awards to his credit, including an honorary award from the Karnataka Janapada Academy in 2017. He was born as the eldest son to Thoma and Thumbe, who were staying in Malnad region. Later, they shifted to Nandikur and then to Hiriyadka when he was around 6 years old.

He married Kargi of Alevoor and the couple had three daughters. Guruva always opposed oppression. He once spoke about some upper caste people not giving dead cattle to his community but burying them instead. For the same reason, he moved away from a hut given to him. Later, Guruva settled with his family on a government allotted land.

"With Guruva's death, we have lost the precious memories of the last hundred years. He was a repository of the community-much marginalised, yet struggling to assert itself. His energetic dolu still resounds in my ears when he beat his 'dolu' both forcefully and rhythmically after felicitation a couple of years back at Regional Resources Center for Folk Performing Arts (MAHE)," recalled center's former coordinator Prof Varadesh Hiregange. "Though he reminded us of Shivaram Karanth's Choma, Guruva's dolu represented a new-found confidence as well," he added.

> **With Guruva's death, we have lost the precious memories of the last hundred years. He was a repository of the community-much marginalised, yet struggling to assert itself. His energetic dolu still resounds in my ears**
>
> Prof Varadesh Hiregange, former coordinator

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IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU,
C.Misc No.4/4/2021
PETITIONER : SRI PATALAPPA, S/o Muniyappa, Aged about 57 years, Residing at Addiganahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru North.
V/S: RESPONDENT : TAHASILDAR, Yelahanka Taluk, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the Petitioner has filed the above Petition against the Respondent, the Registrar of Birth and Death, Bengaluru to register the death of elder sister of mother of the Petitioner namely Pillamma, D/o Late Thimmaiah Who died 12.06.1986 at Bengaluru.
Any person interested and having any objection in this matter, may please appear before this Court on 13.09.2021 on which date the case is posted for hearing. Given under my hand and the seal of the court this day of 18.08.2021.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sheristedar, Court of the Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru
Advocate for Petitioner, Smt. Bhavya. B.M. Advocate, No.41, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, SPV Block, Ganga Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Mobile : 9008833673

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE - P & SC No. 440/2021
BETWEEN: 1.Nirmala L, W/o late Late Sri A.S Muralidharan, Aged about 52 years, 2. Varsha S.M D/o Late Sri A.S Muralidharan, Aged about 27 years 3.Megha S.M, D/o Late Sri A.S Muralidharan, Aged about 21 years
All Residing at #65, 8th Cross 5th Main, S K Garden Bangalore North, Benson Town Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560056
PETITIONERS : AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT
NOTICE
WHEREAS, the Petitioners have instituted the above Petition seeking Succession Certificate with respect to the movable property, namely Personal provident fund (PPF) in SBI Bank, St. Marks Road, more fully described in Schedule hereunder, of late Mr. Muralidharan.A.S who expired on 23.04.2021. The public at large are hereby notified by this Notice that, if any persons/s have any objection in the grant of Succession Certificate to the 1,2nd and 3rd Petitioner, they are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on 20/9/2021 at 11:00 A.M to answer the same, failing which the Petition will be disposed off and succession certificate will be granted to the 1st Petitioner above named.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Public Provident Fund Account No. '80787457578', held through bank account bearing number 10977298160, State Bank of India (SBI), St Marks branch, Bengaluru, in the name of A.S Muralidharan, S/o D.A Subramaniam, residing #65,8th Cross 5th Main S K Garden Bangalore North Benson Town Bangalore North, Bangalore-560056.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 21st August of 2021.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT, BANGALORE
Mr. Chandrashekar S.R., Advocate, No.25, K.Gollahalli (P), Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore- 560074

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General public / whomsoever it may concern that my client Sri. Bhaskar B S resident of Bangalore. Propose to purchase the schedule property belonging to Shri. MANPOOL SINGH S/o Bhururam residing at local address: Flat No.207, B Wing, Kolte Patil Mirabills apartment, Horamavu agara main road, Bangalore 560043. And permanent address as at House No.421, Gali No.4, Dayanand Nagar, Bahadurgarh-124507 Jhajar, Haryana.
He represents that he is the absolute owner and having clear and marketable title to the scheduled property. Any persons, Firm, Institution including financial institution claiming to have any right /title/ interest/ claims or enforceable right in the schedule property either as owner or in any other manner of objection for such alienation may lodge their objections with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, hereof with the undersigned, failing which, It will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with owner referred above.
Schedule Property
All that piece and parcel of residential immovable property comprising old building bearing BBMP No.3696, PID No. 55-332-3696, situated at new ward number 181-(Old No.55), 11th cross, 8th main, 2nd stage Kumaraswamy layout, Bangalore. Including all rights privileges, there to and site measuring 20*30 feet, with old building. Site measuring 600sqt feet bounded by:
EAST : PRIVATE PROPERTY
WEST : PROPERTY NUMBER 3697
NORTH : ROAD
SOUTH : HOUSE NO.3715.
Place : Bangalore, Dated: 23.08.2021
SAIPRAKASH B - Advocate
BNB Associates
No.164, 3rd Floor, S R Market, Lakshman Rao Road, Chickpete, Bangalore-560053.
Phone : 9620787733

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. JAGADISH. R, aged about 30 years, S/o. Sri. Ravanappa, R/at No. 8/1, 2nd 'A' Cross, Rama Krishna Paramahamsa Road, 8th Main, NRI Layout, Near HDFC Bank, Kalkere, Horamavu Post, Bangalore-560043 is intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owners (1) Sri. G.V. GANGADHARA, aged about 54 years, (2) G.V. MANJUNATHA, aged about 51 years, (3) C.V. MUNIKISHNA, aged about 43 years, all are Children of Venkateshappa all are R/at Gunduru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, for valuable Consideration. Any persons having any rights/claims/objections/Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are here by requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within 7 days, my client shall get executed sale deed in his favour.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the Property Land bearing Survey No. 58/1, situated at Marasandra Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring 01 Acre 00 Guntas, Bounded on
East : Land Belongs to Shamanna,
West : Land Belongs to Palligaru Shamanna,
North : Land Belongs to Manjunath,
South : Land Belongs to Shamanna,
Mr. Manjunath Reddy,
Smt. T. Shobha Reddy, Advocates
No. 8/7, Mega City BEML Layout Road, Maragondanahalli Main Road, K.R. Puram Post, Bangalore-36. Ph: 9845520830, 7353233778, 9886265599, 8123342530

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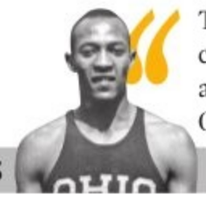
RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.27,67,766/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six Only) as on 09-04-2017 together with further interest to be charged from 10-04-2017 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. B.S. Mani Engineering Works, Rep. by its Proprietor (Late) Mr. K. Devaraj, No.29, Cottonpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053. No.2) Mrs. R. Vishalakshi, W/o. (Late) K. Devaraj, No.51/57-1, 21st Cross, 21st Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560 040. Also at Mrs. R. Vishalakshi, W/o. (Late) K. Devaraj, E-514/52, Gattigere, Bil Em.Ela, Badavane, Bangalore, BBMP - 560 098. No.3) Mr. D Kannan, S/o. (Late) K. Devaraj, #51/57-1, 21st Cross, 21st Main Vijayanagar, Bangalore North, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 040, No.4) Ms. D. Nalini, D/o. (Late) K. Devaraj, 51-57-1, 20th B Main Road, Near Maruthi Temple, Marenahalli - Binnipete, Bangalore North, Vijayanagar Bangalore, BBMP- 560 040.
Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property owned by (Late) Mr. K. Devaraj, S/o. H. Kuppanayakar
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.57/1, 1st Main Road, Marenahalli, Govindaraja Nagar, K. P. Agrahara, Bangalore (Postal Address Door No.51/57/1, Site No.8 (Northern portion) 20th Cross, 21st Main, M.C.Layout, Marenahalli, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 040) Now under BBMP Ward No.35, PID No.35-8-57/1 measuring. As per Sale Deed : East to West 45 ft., North to South 15 ft., As per Actual : East to West 34.25 ft., North to South 15 ft., Totally measuring 675 sq. ft. (as per sale deed) 513.75 sq.ft. (as per Actual) along with a Residential Building, bounded on the East by : Road, West by : Road, North by : Site No.7, South by : Same No. Property of G. Narayana Southern portion.
Reserve Price: Rs. 36,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Only)
RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
15-09-2021	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Indira Nagar Branch, No 194, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, I Stage, Indira Nagar,Bangaluru - 560 038 Telephone No.080-25205030, Cell No. 9341003179.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Indira Nagar Branch, No.194, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, I Stage, Indira Nagar, Bangaluru - 560 038. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact: Telephone No.080-25205030, Cell No.9341003179. (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 21-08-2021 Authorised Officer
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

EDITORIAL



The road to the Olympics, leads to no city, no country. It goes far beyond New York or Moscow, ancient Greece or Nazi Germany. The road to the Olympics leads—in the end—to the best within us

Jesse Owens

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RESTRUCTURING THE NATIONAL OPPN TO MAKE IT VIBRANT

The contours of a vibrant opposition axis emerged last week at a meeting called by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Powerful regional parties made a strong pitch for a seat at the high table to jointly make decisions instead of a UPA-like structure where Sonia had the final word by virtue of being its chairperson. Conveying it obliquely, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee sought the formation of a core group to decide the alliance's agitational programmes. She also pushed for making the grouping bigger and better than the UPA by opening the membership door to all like-minded parties. The indication was towards drawing biggies like the AAP, TRS, YSRCP and BJD, all of which have defeated the BJP, but did not get Sonia's invite for the meeting. Among the UP parties that were invited, the BSP and the SP failed to make it, with the latter's head, Akhilesh Yadav, excusing himself citing a previous engagement in the state's interior, though he was very much in Lucknow.

To build the new alliance—let's call it UPA-plus—the Congress would have to make sacrifices to provide room for others in the leadership matrix. Members of the core group could include Mamata, Sharad Pawar (NCP), Lalu Yadav or son Tejashwi (RJD) and M K Stalin (DMK), some of whom aspire to be PM candidates. It could also mean lesser clout for a few parties that are at present punching above their weight within the opposition. Mamata's decision to prune the 11-point charter of demands of the united opposition to five, reportedly came after she learnt the joint statement was drafted by CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

With the 19 parties that attended the meeting deciding to hold joint agitations against the BJP across the country between September 20 and 30, it will be interesting to see how the unity plays out on the ground. For example, would the Trinamool share the dais with the Left and the Congress in Bengal? In Punjab, would the Congress want to be seen along with the SAD or AAP when state elections are barely six months away? Subsuming individual aspirations for a larger cause is a noble concept, but do the big players with elephantine egos have the magnanimity and vision to make it work?

PUSH FOR PALM OIL SELF-RELIANCE

The Centre has shown strong intent on boosting domestic production of palm oil, having cleared the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). The ₹11,040-crore scheme focuses on addressing the country's edible oil security by bringing more areas under oil palm cultivation. India is one of the world's largest vegetable oil consumers but remains heavily import dependent. Palm oil and its derivatives, used in most processed food, account for the largest share among vegetable oil in the country. Pitifully, India barely produces about 1.5% of its palm oil while importing about 9 million tonnes annually from Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia and Malaysia particularly. The import dependence also impacts food inflation. Thus, the Centre's Atmanirbhar plan for palm oil production through increased cultivation makes sense. It seeks to raise the crude palm oil production to 11 lakh metric tonnes by 2025-26, during which 6.5 lakh hectares of land will be added to the existing 3.7 lakh hectares. The new scheme will have the Centre providing ₹8,844 crore while states would have to chip in with ₹2,196 crore. NMEO-OP also looks to secure farmer interests, with price regulation as well as a viability price mechanism given the long gestation period of the crop.

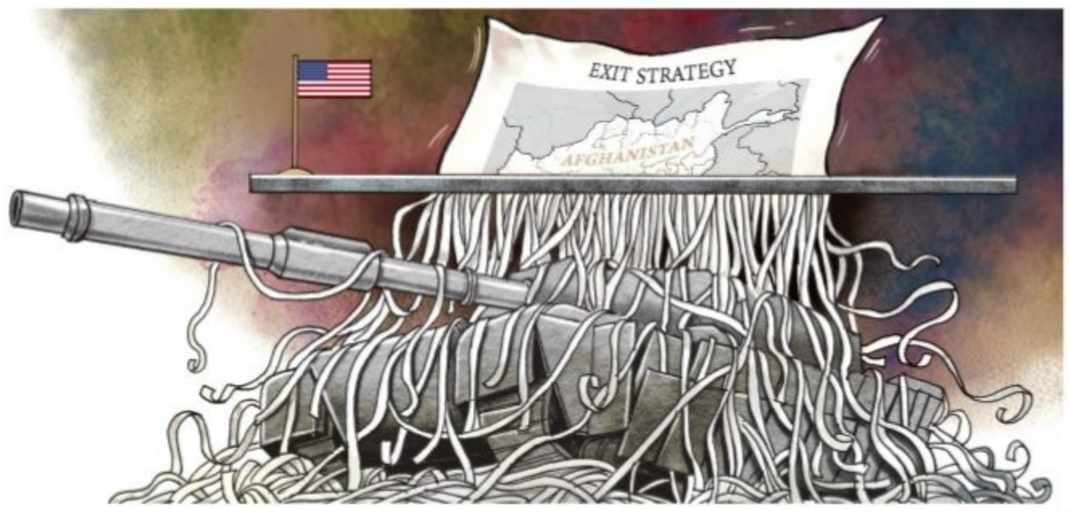
However, the push for palm oil production must be handled with utmost care. One, health concerns associated with palm oil must not be glossed over because India happens to be the diabetic capital of the world. Two, the Centre must not ignore traditional oil seed crops that can address edible oil security besides sustaining thousands of farmers. Finally, there is a serious glare on the palm oil industry due to climate impact. Palm plantations are not just water-guzzling in nature, but a push for them has also led to serious depletion in rainforests, sending critical species to the brink. So much so that Indonesia, the biggest producer, had to place a three-year ban on permits. Importantly, India's push for palm oil self-reliance has a special focus on the Northeast and the Andaman Nicobar Islands, two ecologically sensitive regions. The Centre must ensure that environmental safeguards are in place and health interests are not compromised.

Weapons proliferation is one of the most dangerous outcomes of recent events. There is the potential of human resources, terror finances and weapons reaching J&K

AFGHANISTAN: FROM HERE TO WHERE?

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir



AMIT BANDRE

Joe Biden may keep justifying his actions of pulling out US troops from Afghanistan without a ceasefire and without any agreement worth the name. However, the military incompetence displayed by the Americans will go down in history as one of the greatest capitulations. The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) proved to be incompetent, demotivated and poorly led. Yet what one should question is the competence of the US military commanders on whose assessment was based the idea that they would fight last man last round. When you invest $88 billion in a field force, surely one does step in to also check on the competence of the organisation you have created. We in India may be partially guilty too. There is of course the other version, that the ANSF had put up a spirited fight for the last many years, losing on average as many as 8,000 soldiers per year; that it crumbled in the face of the last stand was largely due to subterfuge, the agreements that probably were negotiated without US knowledge by ANSF commanders. Either way it's the intelligence that proved completely faulty and that too at the operational and tactical level where the ear to the ground should have been far sharper. There are enough versions in the air about a secret deal the US negotiated with the Taliban. These appear completely implausible simply because no US leader in his senses would ever wish to leave behind an arsenal of weapons and ammunition that was bound to fall in the hands of radical elements. To imagine that trust had been built in the last few months to play out a subterfuge against adversaries such as China and Russia is to believe the impossible. The entire Taliban drama has been the result of a poorly thought-through exit strategy and leaves the US red in the face as regards its reputation for future conflicts in partnership.

There are several domains in the developing story of Afghanistan that should worry us. It is unlikely that stability in Kabul is anywhere on the cards. The sham image of change and moderate attitude the Taliban wish to cultivate has not succeeded. If the Taliban wished to sell that image, they should have commenced their public relations much earlier. If they act brutally with the people in the implementation of Sharia Law and abrogate other human rights practices, the people may just not be willing to accept it. Afghan youth may not be so easily subdued after years of relative freedom. That in turn will get international institutions and holders of purse strings to turn off any possible assistance to run the state. Sanctions could be brought in support for resistance movements that are beginning to take shape. We cannot legislate for the attitude of rural Afghanistan but it is likely that the influence of relative freedom of the urban areas has travelled there too. Atrocities on the people will probably result in more resistance. The Panjsher movement provides a spark of hope for many in Afghanistan.

The next big concern relates to the environment of chaos existing at the moment. A nation without a government and rogue elements ruling the streets are a recipe for the entry of extraneous elements involved in transnational crime and terror. This is exactly what happened in Iraq and Syria with the rise of ISIS when the US took its eyes off the scanner in 2011. Most terrorist groups may not exist in physical form but are virtually networked. The region offers tremendous scope for the spread of ideological wars of a hybrid variety. Finances are not a problem due to the illegal narcotics trade and now weapons are available dime a dozen, many of which will probably be sold for profit, creating one of the biggest arms markets in existence. The American goal of ensuring that Afghan territory should never be used for terrorist targeting of the US mainland again, a rather simplistic aim, can hardly be seen to be achieved if well-known terror groups such as Al Qaeda-Core, Islamic State (Khorasan Province), East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Tehreek e Taliban-Pakistan, Jaish e Mohammad, Lashkar e Taiyabba and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan all exist in the vacated space with no US influence and capability there. This presence also spells threats to China (Xinjiang related), Russia (CARs related), Pakistan and India. The longer the instability festers, the more intense will the networks become. Pakistan may have control on some elements but largely it too will get affected. In the past, it has played out the game of friendly and unfriendly terrorists by projecting that it is one of the nations worst affected by terrorism. That gives it grounds to continue its mission in J&K with support from some elements of the Taliban who are favourably disposed towards it. If a global war on terror was ever required, it is at this juncture as interests of most nations converge but international geopolitics will never permit that. China and Russia will want to establish some links with the Taliban to prevent gravitation of terror and radical ideological activity into their areas of influence. The US may not delink itself completely from the region. Instability from here could well move towards the Middle East where US interests lie deep. That is why the American strategy of a clean break from Afghanistan and the Middle East to focus its attention on the Indo Pacific to contest China's not-so-peaceful rise may not fructify.

> There are enough versions in the air about a secret deal the US negotiated with the Taliban. These appear implausible because no US leader in his senses would ever wish to leave behind an arsenal of weapons that was bound to fall in the hands of radical elements

For India it is important to remain in close linkage with some nations whose stakes in Afghanistan are currently very high. Among them are Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Qatar. It's also prudent to remain in consultation with Saudi Arabia and UAE, both of whom have chosen to play a low-key role but whose relative importance cannot be written off.

Weapons proliferation is one of the most dangerous outcomes of recent events. The potential of human resources, terror finances and weapons reaching the J&K area to trigger a revival of violence could always be a Pakistani intent. Yet, Indian capability and experience appears sufficient to neutralise this as long as intelligence is on top, there is no attempt to disturb the well-established counter terror grid and all non-traditional issues of security are also being simultaneously addressed.

(atahasnain@gmail.com)

OLYMPICS AND HOW POLITICAL WILL MATTERS

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

President, ICCR, and BJP Rajya Sabha MP

'Games the politicians play' is an established way of describing certain things indulged in by our leaders. This is perhaps because politics is also largely regarded as playing games, something considered to be done unthinkingly. True, this kind of description with multiple shades of meaning embedded merits contestation as the origin behind the concept of 'playing politics' perhaps lies in an acutely unserious approach towards everything that is 'played', including sports.

At least for several decades in India, sports and physical education was considered traditionally of lesser importance compared to academic programmes or classroom teaching and learning. One comes across several schools and colleges attaching almost no importance to the need for filling the posts of physical education teachers, generally called PT teachers. Even today, in most families, a passion for sports—especially involving on-ground physical activity—is not looked at with requisite dignity.

It is in this backdrop that what the Indian Olympic contingent has achieved merits a closer look. Our contingent has truly made history in several respects. Neeraj Chopra's gold is India's first ever Olympic medal in athletics. Besides, with the tally of 127 athletes to have qualified for the Games this time, we have set a new record. Our participation in 18 sports disciplines is also the highest ever so far.

Some of the achievements are under the 'first ever' category. For the first time, India finished fourth in the women's golf event with a stupendous performance by Aditi Ashok. With Bhavani Devi, India qualified in fencing in the Olympics. Similar first-time qualifiers were female sailor Nethra Kummanam and the duo of Sajan Prakash and Shrihari Natraj in swimming. Also remarkable was the performance of Avinash Sable, who finished 13th in men's 3,000 m steeplechase. In the men's 4x400 m relay, the Indian team finished 9th, setting a new national and Asian record.

Our Tokyo performance needs deeper analysis for three reasons. Firstly, for the sportspersons who took Herculean efforts and have shown remarkable grit and resoluteness, shedding complacency. Secondly, for the out-of-the-box thinking adopted and pathbreaking approaches taken by the sports administrators; thirdly, for the remarkable political will shown by the Central leadership.

Starting from sportspersons and their determined efforts, every participant—those who brought medals for India and those who made significant progress in their performance and missed a medal by a whisker—deserves congratulations. From golden boy Neeraj to Mirabai Chanu, all had to struggle a lot to maintain their fitness, observe a very strict diet regime and brave all kinds of risks due to the Covid-19 pandemic while remaining away from their near and dear ones. All our sportspersons—as pointed out by the PM in an informal address—conducted themselves like disciplined soldiers while in Tokyo, setting a new example of collective will to refrain from all that is beyond rules and regulations. The entire Olympic contingent needs to be recognised—as was done by the PM during his Red Fort speech—for their painstakingly carried-out preparation, single-minded pursuit, the resoluteness shown and confidence in the authorities.

> Neeraj Chopra was provided with a dedicated foreign coach and through him, 450 days of training on foreign soil too was arranged. ... In the case of Mirabai Chanu, when sudden circumstances demanded that she had to go to the US for training, a proposal to that effect was cleared by the ministry within a record six days. Others too received government support without bureaucratic impediments

True, the confidence level of our sportspersons in general was high because they were acutely conscious of the Herculean efforts put in by the government. Unlike the usual approach of ignoring specific needs of specific sports, the sports administrators this time adopted a policy of need-based assistance to all. Chopra was provided with a dedicated foreign coach and through him, 450 days of training on foreign soil too was arranged. Significantly, despite one single javelin costing somewhere around ₹1 lakh or so, a total of 117 javelins were arranged for Chopra's training. In the case of Chanu, when sudden circumstances demanded that she had to go to the US for training, a proposal to that effect was cleared by the ministry within a record six days. For all others too, the experience of getting government support without allowing bureaucratic or technical impediments to play spoilsport was extraordinary.

All this happens when the country's highest-level leadership works with strong political will. The personal attention given by PM Narendra Modi before, during and after the Games was something unheard of. Never before was an independent unit, namely the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), effectively activated some four years before the Games. TOPS facilitated scientific selection of players, structured and time-bound implementation of plans, ensured quick response mechanism in athlete funding as also synergy amongst all stakeholders, starting with the appointment of dedicated professional staff. Also important were other measures like undertaking recce of the Olympic venues and sporting facilities in Tokyo as well as conducting athlete development workshops for holistic growth, including sensitisation about Japanese culture. Since Covid-19 was not over, many countries had restricted the travel of Indians but for Olympians, a special visa cell was created to follow up with respective countries. Also, for the first time, athletes were served through a wellness cell to monitor their health, injury treatment and nutritional needs.

Undoubtedly, India's Olympic performance is historic. But more importantly, efforts put in by the government, PM and Sports Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Anurag Thakur were equally exceptional. This underscores a tectonic change in the government's approach towards sports.

(vinays57@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Fear among parents

Tamil Nadu is opening up schools for at least Classes 9-12 from September 1. It is welcome that they will operate at 50% strength and that Covid norms would be adhered to. Still there is the fear factor due to the killer virus among sections of parents. For instance, students could mingle outside the campus. To begin with, students need orientation programmes on how to deal with the pandemic before the teaching of the various subjects begins.

R Donjeba, Nazareth, Thoothukudi

Move will instil confidence

It is a fine gesture on the part of the Karnataka CM and education minister to visit a few schools in Bengaluru today as classes are set to reopen for students from 9th to 12th (Aug 22). This will instil confidence among parents and students about the safety precautions.

V N Subramanyam, Bengaluru

What about Women's Bill?

This is with reference to *New India must learn to respect women* (Aug 21). In this context, it is pertinent to recall that the Women's Reservation Bill proposing 33% seats for women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies is still hanging fire. When will the parties delivering sermons from the rooftops for women empowerment gather courage to revive and pass it?

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

It is a way of life

The article *Seeing Hinduism upside down* (Aug 22) is well-written. Our civilisation has survived all trials and tribulations. Hinduism is meant to be a way of life and state of mind and it is an inescapable fact that it will survive on earth as long as the sun and moon exist.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Action against lawyers

This is with reference to *Seven lawyers suspended over ruckus at police station* (Aug 22). I appreciate the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for this action. It should take more measures to curb such behaviour.

Aravindan S Sambasivam, Chennai

Uniting just for polls

The opposition's show of strength in virtual and breakfast meetings is of no use until it comes out with alternative programmes that are better than the ones of the BJP under Modi (*Opposition oligopoly vs Modi monopoly*, Aug 22). The unity just for the sake of the 2024 elections will not convince people to vote for the leaderless opposition.

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad

Leading the opposition

While substantial ground has been covered by opposition parties, there are umpteen differences yet to be ironed out. While a frontline leader like Mamata Banerjee has been magnanimous enough to say that she would not mind someone else leading a coalition, other leaders should be willing to follow suit.

CV Aravind, Bengaluru

Setback to Bengal CM

This is with reference to *HC asks CBI to probe post-poll violence* (Aug 20). There was no reason for Mamata to indulge in diabolic post-poll violence after her party's victory in the polls. The TMC cadre were brutal in attacking and killing BJP supporters, which the NHRC condemned. The unanimous order by a five-judge Bench of the Calcutta HC is surely a setback to the Bengal CM.

Venkata Narasimhan K R, Madurai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Capt. Amarinder Singh @capt_amarinder
Around 209 nationals were safely evacuated and flown to Delhi this morning along with other evacuees, of whom 24 are Afghan sikhs.

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
It's disinformation that Ms Mufti in 2019 facilitated abolition of Article 370. In 2018, BJP had withdrawn support and she resigned from CM's post Then how?

Randeep Singh Surjewala @rssurjewala
No. of poor people increased around the world during Covid-19, about 60% increased in India alone. Nothing has been achieved except destruction of country.

PM Narendra Modi pays his last respects to Kalyan Singh in Lucknow | PTI

Kalyan Singh lived up to his name, says Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

KALYAN Singh spent his life to live up to his name, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Lucknow on Sunday morning to pay tributes to the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

Singh, 89, passed away after a prolonged illness in Lucknow on Saturday night.

"This a moment of great grief for all of us. Kalyan Singh ji was named Kalyan by his parents and he spent his life to live up to his name," the PM told media persons after paying tributes to the BJP veteran." All his life he worked towards *jan kalyan* (public welfare). He lived for *jan kalyan* and made it his mantra. He dedicated everything to the BJP, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh and towards a bright future of the country."

The PM, accompanied by BJP national president JP Nadda, reached Lucknow at 10.35 am and went straight to Singh's residence.

The PM added that Singh's name had become synonymous with 'trust' . He was a committed decision maker and had emerged as an inspiration to others in whatever role he was given, either of an MLA or in the government and also as a governor, Modi said.

The nation had lost an able leader and only way to immortalise him and the genuine tribute to the departed leader was to work with his ideals and fulfil his dreams, he said. "I pray to Lord Ram to give strength to his relatives and bereaved family to bear this loss."

The Yogi Adityanath government has declared a three-day state mourning while August 23, the day of the funeral, has been declared a public holiday.

Pfizer vax set to be first fully approved jab

It has submitted more data to US drug regulator from the late-stage clinical trials and ongoing vaccinations

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

THE Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNtech is set to become the first jab against the disease globally to move from emergency-use authorisation to full-approval stage after it submitted more data to US drug regulator from the late-stage clinical trials and ongoing vaccinations.

This mRNA-based vaccine was the first against Covid-19 to receive restricted use authorisation in the UK followed by the US in December last year. In India, the pharma giant's negotiations with the government to launch the vaccine are still stuck over the issue of indemnity.

Full approval to the vaccine will mean the vaccine-maker can advertise directly to people and ensure its availability even after the pandemic ends. But most importantly, it is likely to help persuade those who are hesitant about getting vaccinated until the US Food and Drug Administrator fully gives approval to the shot.

Also, this approval could pave the way for new vaccine requirements by public and private organisations which may make it mandatory for employees or service receivers to be vaccinated. So far, almost in all countries, shots against the coronavirus are largely voluntary—a primary reason why a large population is still unvaccinated.

Once it obtains the full licensure, Pfizer-BioNTech is also planning to apply to the USFDA for the approval of a third dose as booster shot. The US government last week had announced that fully vaccinated adults should prepare to get booster shots eight months after they received their second doses, beginning September 20.

This came after new evidence emerged suggesting that the protection offered by the mRNA vaccine may wane after a few months.

Back home, sources in the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation said that as of now the vaccines being used in India's inoculation drive are nowhere near the full approval.

"For complete licensure, vaccine makers need to submit far more details, particularly on safety aspects and emerging issues such as side effects post vaccinations," said a CDSCO official. "However, we do not really see that happening in near future as for vaccine makers the priority now is to focus on scaling up the supplies to meet the need of vaccinations."

For complete licensure, vaccine makers need to submit far more details from clinical trials. As for vaccine makers, the priority now is to focus on scaling up the supplies

A CDSCO official

Why full approval?

Full approval to the vaccine will mean the vaccine-maker can advertise directly to people and ensure its availability even after the pandemic ends. But most importantly, it is likely to help persuade those who are hesitant about getting vaccinated until the US FDA fully gives approval to the shot.

Health workers administer Covid vaccine to women during a special drive in Thane, Maharashtra on Sunday | PTI

Relief: Lowest Covid active cases in 152 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA registered 30,948 new Covid cases on Sunday while the active infections declined to 3,53,398—the lowest in 152 days or nearly five months.

The active cases now comprise of 1.09 % the total confirmed 32424234 infections so far, according to the data shared by the Union health ministry.

Meanwhile, fatalities due to coronavirus inched back up after a day's decline amid concerns over a third wave of the pandemic.

India reported 403 casualties in the preceding 24 hours, taking the official toll count to 4.3 lakh but the new cases dropped for the second straight day, and stayed below 40,000 for exceeded fresh infections for the second consecutive day.

A look at the data suggests that the new Covid-19 cases have receded from the peak of 4 lakh touched early May amid the second wave of the pandemic. The number of deaths reported, too, has dropped.

However, there are concerns that the real death count could be far higher, mostly on account of underestimation because of undercounting, a backlog in the civil registration system and a lack of testing leading to Covid deaths being missed.

The Centre, meanwhile, shared more data showing that nearly 58.1 crore people have received Covid19 vaccines, with 52.21akh doses administered in the last 24 hours across the country.

Also, the total number of tests done on Saturday day was 15.9 lakh.

COVID TRACKER

- 3,53,398 Active cases
- 7,942 Fall in active cases
- 15,85,681 Tests on Saturday
- 52,23,612 Doses on Saturday
- 1.34% CASE FATALITY RATE
- 1.95% DAILY POSITIVITY RATE
- 97.57% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE

Source: Union Health Ministry

KARTARPUR

Pak to allow vaccinated Sikh pilgrims at gurdwara

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has decided to allow fully-vaccinated Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur from next month with strict COVID-19 protocols, ahead of the 482nd death anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev on September 22, Pakistan media reports said.

On this occasion, three-day rituals will be held at the shrine from September 20. Guru Nanak died in Kartarpur on September 22, 1539.

Pilgrimage to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara was suspended in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The decision to open the Kartarpur shrine was taken by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday due to the approaching death anniversary of Sikhism founder Baba Guru Nanak Dev on September 22.

Dawn newspaper reported that the NCOC meeting unanimously decided to allow Sikh pilgrims to visit Kartarpur next month under strict COVID-19 protocols. Due to the Delta variant, India was in category C in Pakistan from May 22 till August 12, and a special approval was required for people coming from the country. However, fully-vaccinated persons with certificates will be allowed to enter Pakistan provided they show RT-PCR test reports which should not be more than 72 hours old.

Apart from this, a Rapid Antigen Test will also be conducted at airports and in case of a positive result, the individual will not be allowed to enter Pakistan. Besides, a maximum of 300 people will be permitted to assemble at a time at the darbar.

India signed the Kartarpur corridor agreement with Pakistan on October 24, 2019. Under the pact, Indian pilgrims are allowed to undertake round-the-year visa-free travel through the Kartarpur corridor to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib. *PTI*

'Karzai's mistakes revived Taliban'

SHAN A S @Thiruvanthapuram

THE Taliban's resurgence and swift takeover of Kabul was made possible due to the 'historic mistakes' committed by former president Hamid Karzai, said Mohammad Zahir Aghbar, the Afghanistan ambassador to Tajikistan.

Speaking to *TNIE* from Dushanbe, Aghbar accused Karzai of allowing the Taliban to entrench in the northern parts of the war-torn country. "The intelligence reports said Karzai administration was facilitating the Taliban's growth in the northern parts. He did not approve military actions against the Taliban, addressed them as brothers and freed the Taliban prisoners. It's because of the mistakes of the Karzai administration that Afghanistan is in this grave situation."

Karzai was in power for a decade since 2004. The former president has joined a coordination council alongside Abdullah Abdullah and politician Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to negotiate with the Taliban upon their return.

Aghbar did not spare Abdullah Abdullah, saying the former Chief Executive of Afghanistan did not standing up to the corruption and nepotism of Ashraf Ghani.

Ghani had recruited top army officers loyal to him, but did not check their credentials, Aghbar claimed. "The military officials appointed by Ghani seem to have made deals with the Taliban and that resulted in easy surrender. Those in the bottom of the chain of command easily gave up their positions to Taliban."

Meanwhile, he also appreciated the ongoing talks between Taliban and other political and ethic leaders. "The country needs peace. No one will win by fighting. Leaders like Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammad Noor also want an inclusive government. But Taliban should not repeat what they did in the past. If they try to impose a gruesome rule, then we will resist it."

Aghbar, meanwhile, welcomed Khalil Haqqani's peace overtures to Ahmad Shah Massoud's son Ahmad Massoud.

The Afghanistan ambassador said Massoud's son Ahmed Massoud had started preparations to face the Taliban at the Panjshir Valley —the only province still out of Taliban control —almost four months ago when the scenario was growing worse. "He had prepared the headquarters and named the proposed offensive as resistance 2.0," Aghbar added.

Massoud, former vice-president and self-proclaimed acting president of Afghanistan Amrullah Saleh and former defence minister General Bismillah Mohammadi are the leaders of this resistance.

The Taliban had earlier claimed Ahmed Massoud had joined hands with it. But, Ahmed Massoud, the leader of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, has maintained that he would follow in his father's footsteps and won't surrender to the Taliban, who have seized the country after the US and allied forces left Kabul.

There are now reports of foreign agencies that the Taliban saying that "hundreds" of its fighters were heading to the Panjshir Valley, which is one of the few regions of Afghanistan not under its control.

People evacuated from Afghanistan rest after landing at Hindon air base on Sunday | EXPRESS

POLIO VAX FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES: GOVT

India has decided to vaccinate Afghanistan returnees against polio for free as a preventive measure against the wild polio virus, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries in the world where polio is still endemic. "We have decided to vaccinate Afghanistan returnees with free polio vaccine as a preventive measure against Wild Polio Virus. Congratulations to the health team for its efforts," Mandaviya tweeted.

EXPRESS READ

Grenade attack by militants in Baramulla

Srinagar: Militants on Sunday hurled a grenade towards the residence of a sarpanch in J&K's Baramulla district but there was no casualty in the explosion, officials said. At about 9:55 PM, militants threw a grenade towards the residence of sarpanch Narinder Kour at Shakwara in Kreeri area of the north Kashmir district, they said, adding that there was no loss of life.

Rajnath to felicitate Tokyo athletes

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will felicitate armed forces personnel who participated in this year's Olympics in Tokyo in Pune on Tuesday. The defence ministry noted that all armed forces personnel who represented India in the Tokyo Olympics, including gold medallist javelin thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, are likely to be present on the occasion.

Pak remark: Amarinder flays Sidhu's advisors

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

PUNJAB Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday trained his guns on the two advisors appointed by state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, warning them against making "atrocious and ill-conceived comments that were potentially dangerous to the peace and stability of the state and the country".

Amarinder urged the duo to stick to giving advice to the PCC president and not speak on matters "of which they clearly had little or no knowledge".

The CM was reacting to reported remarks of Dr Pyare Lal Garg and Malwinder Singh Mali, who were recently appointed by Sidhu as his advisors.

Expressing "shock at the extraordinary statements" of the duo, Amarinder said they were antagonistic to the stated position of India and the Congress party. The CM, who is at loggerheads with Sidhu, urged the latter to rein in his advisors before they "end up doing more damage".

Ridiculing Garg's statement that his (CM's) criticism of Pakistan was not in the interest of Punjab, Amarinder said Sidhu's advisor was clearly disconnected from ground reality.

"Garg may have forgotten the thousands of Punjabi lives lost to Pak-backed terrorism, but I have not. Nor have the people of Punjab."

Mali had, in a media post, waded into the issue of revocation of Article 370 and reportedly said if Kashmir was a part of India, then what was the need to have Articles 370 and 35A.

Reacting to this, Amarinder asserted that "Kashmir was and is an inalienable part of India" and that Mali had effectively toed Islamabad's line with his proclamation. "This is totally anti-national."

Indian naval ships Shivalik and Kadmatt at Guam in the Pacific Ocean | PTI

Quad navies to flex muscle at Malabar wargame

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

INDIA, the US, Australia and Japan will carry out the next edition of the high-voltage Malabar naval exercise from August 26 to 29 off the coast of Guam amid mounting global concerns over China's growing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indian stealth frigate INS Shivalik and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt reached Guam on Saturday to take part in the exercise that will feature an array of complex drills.

"The Malabar-21 would witness high-tempo exercises among destroyers, frigates, corvettes, submarines, helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft of the participating navies," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. "Complex surface, sub-surface and air operations including live weapon firing drills, anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, and joint manoeuvres and tactical exercises will be conducted during the exercise."

The Malabar exercise is taking place in the midst of growing convergence of interests among the Quad countries in the face of China's increasing assertiveness. Though it is not part of the framework of cooperation under Quad, the exercise is seen as a reflection of increasing partnership among the four countries.

China has been suspicious about the purpose of the Malabar exercise as it feels that the annual war game is an effort to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

India, the US, Australia, Japan and many other like-minded countries are working towards ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

BALLOON CYLINDER BLAST

Two persons were killed and three others injured after a cylinder being used for filling gas in balloons exploded at a fair in Chhindwara city of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, police said.

85 KG OF GANJA FOUND WITH UP DRUG DEALER

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	26	Mumbai	29	26
Bhopal	29	23	Panaji	29	25
Jaipur	33	26	Patna	31	26
Amritsar	33	26	Lucknow	32	27
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	27	22
Srinagar	29	18	Chandigarh	32	26

MUHARRAM CELEBRATION

Cops invoke NSA against three for pro-Pak slogans

Ujjain police claim they have audio-video evidence of anti-India slogans being raised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhopal

IN a significant development in the case pertaining to Thursday night alleged raising of pro- Pakistan slogans at a Muharram related gathering in Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh, the Ujjain district administration has invoked the National Security Act gainst three of those arrested in the case.

The four men against whom NSA has been invoked include Azhar alias Ajju (21), Shadab alias Bachcha (40) and Mohd Samir alias Baldi (28) – who are among the 20-odd men accused in the Thursday night case of pro Pakistan slogan being allegedly raised – and Sahil Lala alias Soyam (20), who has been arrested in a separate case for making abusive mentions about India in his Instagram.

While confirming the invoking of NSA against the four men in two separate cases, the additional SP (Ujjain) Amrendra Singh told this newspaper that NSA has been invoked against the four men by the Ujjain district administration following recommendation by the district's police chief Satyendra Shukla.

Over 20 people who have been identified from videos of the Thursday night Muharram related gathering, for indulging in the alleged pro Pakistan slogan raising, have so far been booked under IPC Sections 124A (sedition) and 153B (imputation, assertion prejudicial to national integration). Out of them, 10 men have been arrested by the Jiwaji Ganj Police.

> We've sufficient audio-visual evidence about pro Pakistan and anti India slogans having been raised at the Thursday night religious gathering
>
> Ujjain police source

However, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh tweeted on Sunday that "the case was registered against many people based on fake news, in which "Qazi Sahab Zindabad' slogans were portrayed as "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans. Before acting on the matter, the MP Police should have ascertained the reality. If arrests have been made, then the case should be withdrawn."

Assam cops gun down dacoits prior to bank robbery

20 POLICE ENCOUNTER KILLINGS SINCE MAY

Since Himanta Biswa Sarma donned the chief minister's mantle on May 10 this year, the Assam Police have shot dead 20 criminals. Thirty others sustained gunshot wounds. "We have to make Assam crime-free. Incidents of rape, murder, theft have to come to a stop. To ensure it, we have worked hard..."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Guwahati

CONTINUING with their operations against criminals, the Assam Police gunned down three dacoits in a pre-dawn encounter on Sunday.

The shooting occurred in western Assam's Kokrajhar. Three other dacoits managed to escape the police.

"Prevention trumps a cure. Our underlying mantra...Upon being intercepted, the dacoits opened fire on police. In retaliatory fire by police, 3 dacoits from nearby districts were injured & later succumbed," the state's Director-General of Police Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta tweeted. He said vehicles, tools, gas cutters, two pistols along with oxygen cylinders were recovered. The six-member gang of dacoits had come to loot the Allahabad Bank branch but the police got a whiff of it and arrived at the spot.

On seeing the cops, the dacoits fled the scene in two vehicles, including a two-wheeler. A hot chase ensued an encounter at a nearby place in which three dacoits sustained grievous injuries. They succumbed to their wounds later.

Reacting to the shooting, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Assam would be made crime-free.

"We have to make Assam crime-free. Incidents of rape, murder, theft have to come to a stop. To ensure it, we have worked hard and we will work relentlessly," Sarma told journalists.

North Bengal statehood issue shows rift within BJP

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE @ Kolkata

DIFFERENT opinions from within the BJP's Bengal chapter surfaced in past 24 hours over the issue of statehood for north Bengal after the party's state president Dilip Ghosh supported the demand raised by a Union minister for state and another MP Locket Chatterjee refused to second it.

Referring to minister John Barla's demand for the formation of separate state or Union Territory comprising districts in north Bengal, Ghosh on Saturday said, "If north Bengal or Junglemahal eventually turns into separate states, chief minister Mamata Banerjee would be responsible for it. John Barla has not made any illegitimate demand. There is nothing wrong in it."

Earlier, BJP MP from Bishnupur Saumitra Khan had demanded separate statehood for Junglemahal districts which include Jhargram, Purulia, West Midnapore and Bankura.

Locket, in an event in Hooghly on Sunday, said Bengal's people never want any changes in the state's geographical status. "Bengal's culture and vision are different. Bengal should remain same what it is today, from north to south and from east to west. This is the land of Rabindranath Tagore where people love to live together," she said.

Barla began raising the demand for statehood within a month of the recent elections.

'New tech should be used for assessment'

CONTINUED FROM PAG2 1

SHARMA said new technological innovations should be used for clear assessment of claims to be paid to the farmers.

"Drones should be used for assessment. Why are they not applying the per unit area yardstick for assessment of crop loss and claims? There are flaws in the method of assessment," he pointed out.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Buta Singh of the echoed Sharma. "There have been issues related to proper assessment of crop loss and claims under this crop insurance scheme. Only government insurance companies should be given the responsibility to implement this scheme," he said.

However, the Union agriculture ministry recently said the yawning gap between premium mop up and claims paid ought not be read as full profit since the cost of reinsurance and administrative cost of the insurance firms need to be factored in. The PMFBY was launched in April, 2016 to derisk cultivation. According to government data, since the inception of the scheme in 2016-17, over 29 crore farmers have been enrolled and nearly 2,354 lakh hectares insured.

However, the total area insured under the scheme has gone down from 567 lakh hectare in 2016-17 to 495 lakh hectare in 2019-20. One reason is the opting out of six states from the scheme — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Telangana and West Bengal. "Financial constraints of the State government and low claim ratio during normal season are the major reasons for non-implementation of the scheme by these states," the ministry said.

'No Partition if Godse had killed Jinnah'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

SHIV Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said that if instead of Mahatma Gandhi, Nathuram Godse had killed Mohamad Ali Jinnah, then "today our country would be united" and that we would not have need to ask the people to observe the Partition Horror Remembrance day.

PM Narendra Modi in his speech on 75th independence day from Red Fort asked people to observe the Partition horror remembrance day. Sanjay Raut in his weekly column said: "When the seeds of partition were sown that time the Mahatma Gandhi was not the leader of the country. During Lokmanya Tilk time, the Lucknow pack was signed in 1916 that created the separate Sindh region and gave more power to Muslim League. Besides, the Muslims got separately elected representations. So, the intention of Tilak was not to create the hated between two communities, but to pacify and work out the amicable formula to maintain the unity among all caste and religion. But it ended in creating two separate nations," Raut said.

BUILDING BONDS

Women tie rakhi on the wrist of surrendered Maoists. The sisters of the men were delighted by the opportunity | EXPRESS

TENSION EASES AFTER FLARE-UP AT MIZO-ASSAM BORDER AREA

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

FRESH tension on the restive Assam-Mizoram border eased on Sunday after Assam's Hailakandi district authorities returned the construction materials its police had seized to Mizoram's Kolasib district officials. Trouble had been brewing on the interstate border since Friday when the Assam Police stopped the construction of a bridge in a disputed area.

The incident prodded the Mizoram Police to register a case of theft against their Assam counterparts.

Hailakandi SP Gaurav Upadhyay said they stopped some Mizoram workers from attempting to build a bridge at Kachurtal on the Assam side of the border on Friday. However, on Saturday, 40-50 security personnel from Mizoram reached the site and a few of them entered Assam 'in violation of the joint statement issued by both states on August 5 to maintain peace in the border area", the SP alleged.

"In order to assert the position of Assam and to ask Mizoram forces to retreat, a party of around 200 Assam Police personnel and commandos under my leadership and other senior officials reached Kachurthal on Sunday morning," Upadhyay said.

Tension eased by the evening when Kolasib DM H Lalthlangliana confirmed the seized construction materials had been returned and said the case registered against the Assam Police would be withdrawn.

J&K allots 25 kanals land to Amarnath shrine board

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Lt Governor administration in Jammu and Kashmir has allotted 25 kanals of land in Srinagar to Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), which manages the annual Amarnath yatra to cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, on rent of Rs 10 per kanal per annum for a period of 40 years.

The Revenue department in order No 56-JK-(Rev) of 2021 dated 20-8-2021 accorded sanction to grant of 25 kanals of land at Pantha Chowk area in Srinagar in favour of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board.

The land has been given on lease of 40 years from the date of taking over the possession on payment of nominal ground rent of Rs 10 per Kanal per annum without charge of any premium subject to the condition that the land shall be used only for the purpose for which it is granted.

The land has been granted to the Amarnath Shrine board for construction of office and Yatra niwas.

HARYANA'S SAD HONOUR KILLING RECORD

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ALTHOUGH honour killings take place across the country, Haryana and Punjab are notorious in this regard. In Haryana whole community supports and participates in murdering young couples, whereas in Punjab it is only the family. Notably, both states have the the lowest sex and child sex ratios.

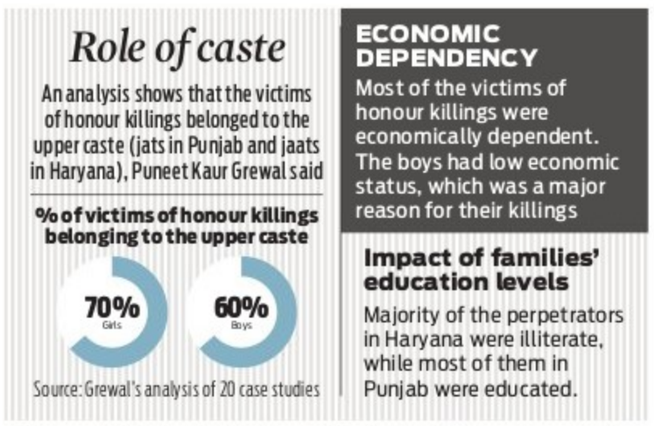
All these revelations have been made in the book *Killings For Honour. A Culture of Silence* written by Puneet Kaur Grewal who is working as State Project Coordinator in Women and Child Development Department, Haryana. The book was released here Saturday evening.

Grewal told this newspaper: "In most of the honour killing cases in Punjab in order to avoid public disgrace parents kill their daughters quietly and show it as natural death. While in Haryana the whole community supports and participates in murdering the girl or young couple and take full onus. Taking pride in what they did. In all the cases in Haryana, the perpetrators themselves report the matter to the police within twenty-four hours of the killing," she said.

"In comparison to Haryana girls in Punjab, who rebel against the family were often forced into early marriage and their education discontinued as killing them is the last resort. But in Haryana first and the last resort is to kill," Grewal wrote in her book. "A culture of silence was observed in most of the cases."

Grewal further said that it's clear that relationships with those of lower castes, especially Scheduled Castes, are not at all tolerated.

Girls' families would also not approve of relationships with boys of low incomes.


Role of caste
An analysis shows that the victims of honour killings belonged to the upper caste (jats in Punjab and jaats in Haryana), Puneet Kaur Grewal said
% of victims of honour killings belonging to the upper caste
70% Girls
60% Boys
Source: Grewal's analysis of 20 case studies
ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY
Most of the victims of honour killings were economically dependent. The boys had low economic status, which was a major reason for their killings
Impact of families' education levels
Majority of the perpetrators in Haryana were illiterate, while most of them in Punjab were educated.

Day before Nitish's meet with Modi, BJP changes tack on caste census

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

ON the eve of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar leading an all-party delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press him to go for caste-wise census, the BJP appeared to change its tune, citing historical references to say it was on the same page.

The shift in nuance was articulated by Bihar's BJP stalwart Sushil Kumar Modi, weeks after the Centre had told the Lok Sabha it intends to stay with the policy of not going for caste census. The demand has gathered strength amid OBC consolidation, and the BJP apparently does not want to be portrayed as being against it

with elections to five states, including UP, due in about six months.

Taking to Twitter, Modi said despite the technical and practical difficulties in conducting a castewise headcount, the BJP supports it as a matter of principle. He said the late BJP leader Gopinath Munde's argument in favour of the exercise in Parliament in 2011 had presented the party's stand on the issue. While a census on economic, social and caste lines was carried out in 2011, the then dispensation did not release the figures in public domain due to gross anomalies, he pointed out.

Modi, a former deputy CM of Bihar and the ex-head of the Group of Ministers on IGST, is a tall leader in Bihar politics, whose words carry weight with both the BJP and its allies.

In another tweet, he said Bihar BJP, too, is part of the delegation slated to meet the PM, adding: "Bihar BJP was involved in the passage of resolutions in the legislative council and Assembly in support of caste-based census."

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
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Kin of lawmakers may not be BJP candidates in upcoming by-polls, party sources indicate

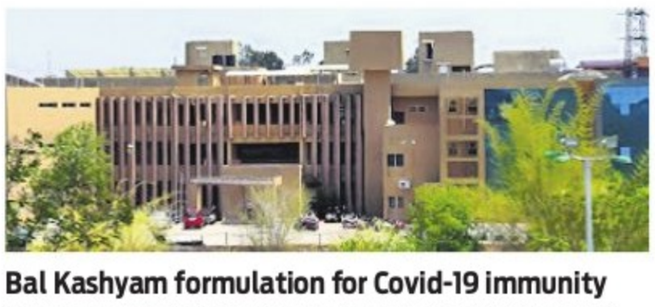
The ruling BJP may deny ticket to kin of deceased MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan and MLA late Jugal Kishore Bagri in the by-elections to Khandwa Lok Sabha seat and Raigaon Vidhan Sabha seat, whose dates are yet to be finalized. While Chauhan's son Harshvardhan is a prominent face in the race for BJP ticket for the seat (whose by-poll was necessitated by his father's demise), Bagri's son Pushpraj is the frontrunner for the ruling party's ticket in Raigaon (where by-poll was necessitated by Bagri's death). In Khandwa, prominent faces, including BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and ex MP ministers, Archana Chitnis and Deepak Joshi, are among the top contenders, but in Raigaon-SC seat, the party doesn't have much options, excepting Bagri's son and other relatives. The party is focusing on merit and not family in the by-polls, said BJP sources in Bhopal.

Dalit woman's body cremated under tin sheet

Disturbing visuals of a Dalit woman's body being cremated under the shed of a tin sheet held by cremation procession members amid heavy rains in the absence of proper mukti-dham (cremation ground) for them in Bansaheda Khurd village of Guna district went viral on Saturday. The cremation procession members said despite repeated requests to village sarpanch since the last five years for building a cremation ground for them, nothing has been done. This has compelled them to carry cremations of their clan members in such a manner. With the video getting viral, the Guna district administration rushed a team to the village, where it was found that a cremation ground shed was constructed in 2013-14, but it was destroyed due to thunder and dust storms.

Potential eco-tourism sites identified in MP

As many as 29 sites with potential for eco-tourism have been identified by the State Eco Tourism Board within forest areas in the state for rendering the tourists recreation and wildlife experience. Tenders will be issued for the selection of private businessmen for the purpose of operation, management and maintenance of eco-tourism activities at these 29 such eco-tourism sites. According to the chief executive officer of the Board, Satyanand the 29 sites for eco-tourism would be entrusted to private institutions for operation, management and maintenance for a period of 10 years.



Bal Kashyam formulation for Covid-19 immunity

With the possibility of kids being more vulnerable to the likely third wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the AYUSH Department in Madhya Pradesh has prepared AYUSH Bal Kashayam formulation to increase the immunity of children for fighting out the killer viral infection. Dr Umesh Shukla, Principal of Pandit Khushi Lal Sharma Government Autonomous Ayurveda College and Institute (pictured) handed over the sample product of AYUSH Bal Kashayam to state's AYUSH minister (Independent Charge) Ramkishore Kavre. The product has been prepared as per central government norms and after government approval, it will be made available to all.

100 tonnes
liquid medical oxygen delivered to Sri Lanka by Indian naval ship Shakti on Sunday to combat Covid

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	30	18	TDS	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	28	26	LC	Melbourne	14	8	LR
Dhaka	32	27	TDS	Moscow	22	10	LC
Dubai	42	32	SNY	New York	29	23	LR
Houston	36	25	SNY	Singapore	29	26	TDS
Istanbul	29	22	SNY	Toronto	29	19	SNY
London	22	12	LC	Washington	33	23	LC

AFGHANS FACE 'IMPOSSIBLE' RACE AGAINST TIME TO FLEE

Taliban blame US for chaotic evacuation of thousands from Kabul airport | G7 leaders will discuss the situation in a virtual summit tomorrow, says UK PM

KABUL

THE Taliban on Sunday blamed the US for the chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans and foreigners from Kabul, one week after the hard-line Islamist group returned to power in a rapid victory that stunned the world.

The US has warned of security threats and the European Union admitted it was "impossible" to evacuate everyone at risk from the Taliban, who have vowed a softer version of their brutal rule from 1996 to 2001. But terrified Afghans continue to try to flee, deepening a tragedy at Kabul airport where the US and its allies have been unable to cope with the huge numbers of people trying to get on evacuation flights.

"America, with all its power and facilities... has failed to bring order to the airport. There is peace and calm all over the country, but there is chaos only at Kabul airport," Taliban official Amir Khan Mutaqi said.

A journalist, who was among a group of fleeing media workers and academics fortunate enough to reach the airport on Sunday, described desperate scenes of people surrounding their bus on the way in. "They were showing us their passports and shouting 'take us with you... please take us with you'," the journalist said. "The Taliban fighter in the truck ahead of us had to shoot in the air to make them go away."

Britain's Sky News on Saturday aired footage of at least three bodies covered in white tarpaulin outside the airport. It was not clear how they had died.

Harrowing videos have emerged of babies and children being passed to soldiers over razor-wire fences and men clinging to the outside of departing planes.

The crisis has led to mounting criticism of the US and its Western allies, which this year pressed on with the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan as the government and security forces struggled to contain rising Taliban violence. G7 leaders will discuss the situation in a virtual summit on Tuesday, Britain's PM Boris Johnson said.

"It is vital that the international community works together to ensure safe evacuations, prevent a humanitarian crisis and support the Afghan people to secure the gains of the last 20 years," Johnson tweeted. As the bungled evacuations continued, Joe Biden described it as "one of the largest, most difficult airlifts in history".

The US, which has thousands of troops trying to secure Kabul airport, has set a deadline to complete the evacuations by August 31. On Sunday, the defence ministry enlisted the help of several major airlines in transporting people who have been flown to US bases in the Gulf and Europe back to America. There are up to 15,000 Americans and 50,000 to 60,000 Afghan allies who need to be evacuated, according to the Biden administration. *AFP*

US military medics help the Afghan woman, who delivered her baby in the cargo hold of the US military plane after it landed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany | TWITTER (AIR MOBILITY COMMAND)

Taliban fighters stand guard at a checkpoint in the Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul | Pics: AP

A porter pushes a wheelbarrow carrying Afghan children as family members enter into Pakistan through a border crossing point in Chaman, Pakistan, on Sunday

Afghan woman gives birth on US flight

Berlin: The US military says an Afghan woman gave birth aboard an Air Force C-17 that flew from the Middle East to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The military's Air Mobility Command tweeted that the mother began having complications during the flight on Saturday. Upon reaching Ramstein, US medics came aboard and delivered the child in the cargo bay.

'Imbecilic' withdrawal

Former UK prime minister **Tony Blair**, who in 2001 took Britain into war in Afghanistan alongside the US, on Saturday criticised the US motives for the troops withdrawal as "imbecilic". "The abandonment of Afghanistan and its people is tragic, dangerous, unnecessary, not in their interests and not in ours," Blair wrote in an article. "We didn't need to do it. We chose to do it."

STRIKING TERROR

In October 2013, Afghan forces intercepted a Haqqani truck in eastern Afghanistan that contained nearly 28 tonnes (61,500 pounds) of explosives, according to the US National Counterterrorism Center.

Haqqanis have been accused of assassinations, including an attempt against then-president Karzai in 2008, and kidnappings of officials and Western citizens, for ransom and prisoner exchanges.

They have long been suspected of links with the Pakistani military establishment. US Admiral Mike Mullen described them as a "veritable arm" of Islamabad's intelligence in 2011. Pakistan denies this.

They have hugely contributed to Taliban's fighting ranks, and are its "most combat-ready forces", UN monitors said in a June report.

The monitors also described the network as the "primary liaison" between Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

HAQQANI NETWORK: AFGHANISTAN'S MOST FEARED MILITANTS

Some of Taliban's top leaders are gathering in Kabul to discuss the formation of a new Afghan government – including a representative from the Haqqani network, the country's most feared militants. The Haqqanis have been blamed for some of the deadliest attacks in recent years, claiming the lives of civilians, govt officials and foreign forces. Despite their reputation, they are expected to be powerful players in the new regime following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan last week.

Who are the Haqqanis?

The shadowy group was formed by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who gained prominence in the 1980s as a hero of anti-Soviet jihad. At the time, he was a CIA asset as US and its allies such as Pakistan funnelled arms and money to the mujahideen. During that conflict and following the Soviet withdrawal, Jalaluddin Haqqani fostered close ties with foreign jihadists, including Osama bin Laden. He later allied with the Taliban who took over Afghanistan in 1996. Jalaluddin's death after a long illness was announced by Taliban in 2018, and his son Sirajuddin became the network's chief. Due to their financial and military strength and a reputation for ruthlessness, Haqqanis are considered semi-autonomous while remaining within the Taliban fold.

REPORT: AFP

What is their role in the new regime?

The Haqqanis have emerged as serious players in Taliban's political project with at least two of their leaders in Kabul as talks begin on forming the next government. Sirajuddin's formal elevation to the deputy leader position six years ago cemented that role, analysts say. And the release of his brother Anas from Afghan custody in 2019 was seen as a move to help kickstart the direct US-Taliban talks that eventually led to the troop withdrawal.

Why are the Haqqanis so widely feared?

The Haqqani network is blamed for some of the deadliest and most shocking attacks in Afghanistan during the last two decades. They have been designated a foreign terrorist group by the US, and are also under UN sanctions. The Haqqanis have a reputation for frequently using suicide bombers, including drivers in cars and trucks packed with huge amounts of explosives, and have demonstrated the ability to carry out complex, high-casualty assaults on major targets including military installations and embassies. Mainly based in eastern Afghanistan -- with alleged bases across the border in Pakistan's northwest -- the group became more visible in the Taliban leadership in recent years, and Sirajuddin Haqqani was appointed deputy leader in 2015.

Pakistan suspends flights temporarily

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has temporarily suspended Kabul flight operations and is not evacuating anyone at the moment. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was the sole commercial airline that had been operating flights to and from Kabul during the past few days to help in the evacuation of diplomats and foreign nationals from Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in the war-torn country last week.

8 dead as Hurricane Grace hits Mexico

VERACRUZ (MEXICO)

HURRICANE Grace swept onto Mexico's Gulf coast and moved inland on Saturday, drenching coastal and inland areas. At least eight people died.

The storm had lost power while crossing over the Yucatan Peninsula on Thursday, swirling through Mexico's main tourist strip, but it rapidly drew strength from the relatively warm Gulf of Mexico before reaching the Mexican coast again late Friday.

At least eight people, including children, died and three were missing after mudslides and flooding, said Cuitlahuac Garcia, governor of Veracruz state.

The US National Hurricane Center said Grace quickly weakened to a tropical storm as it churned over mountainous areas in central Mexico east of Mexico City and then dissipated at midafternoon. *AP*

A man throws a bag of rice into a crowd of earthquake victims gathered for the distribution of food and water in Les Cayes, Haiti | AFP FILE

Haiti quake toll reaches 2,207

Port-au-Prince: Haiti's Civil Protection Agency said on Sunday that the toll from the August 14 magnitude 7.2 earthquake has grown to 2,207, with 344 people missing. The figure had been 2,189 on Wednesday. The agency said 12,268 people were injured and nearly 53,000 houses were destroyed by the earthquake.

10 killed in Tennessee flash floods

Waverly (US): Catastrophic flooding in Middle Tennessee left at least 10 people dead and dozens missing on Saturday as record-shattering rainfall washed away homes and rural roads, authorities said.

ASIA MATTERS

New Malaysian PM strikes conciliatory tone in 1st address

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's new PM Ismail Sabri Yaakob struck a conciliatory tone in his first national address on Sunday, saying he would embrace the opposition to tackle Covid and revive the economy. Ismail, 61, said the political battles that led to a change of government twice since 2018 elections had been detrimental to the country. He said he would invite the opposition to be part of the National Recovery Council. AP

Japan FM discusses de-escalation

Tehran: Iranian president on Sunday met Japan's foreign minister in Tehran and the two discussed de-escalation of tensions in the region, Iranian news agencies reported. The president's official website, president.ir, said Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi discussed bilateral, regional and international issues with President Ebrahim Raisi. The two-day visit is the first by a Japanese official since Raisi became Iran's new president and the first since the Japanese prime minister visited Iran in 2019. ISNA said Motegi is in Tehran at the official invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The report said Motegi would meet with Raisi's nominated foreign minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian and other high-ranking officials during his two-day visit. AP

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT
I, **DOLLY ROY,** R/o No. 353, D S Max Stone Hill, Anjanapura, J P Nagar 9th Phase, Bangalore-560108, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DOLLY RAI** to **DOLLY ROY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **DOLLY ROY** only, vide affidavit dated 21-08-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **AMBRESHAPPA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Mrs. KAVITHA .K (SUMA .B)** W/o Gangadaraiah .K.V, R/at. Kyasavara at Post, Tumkur District, Karnataka-572121, hereby declare that both the names i.e. **KAVITHA .K** and **SUMA .B** are one and same and belongs to me only, hereafter I shall be known and called as **KAVITHA .K** only, vide affidavit dated 21.08.2021, sworn before D.S. Chandrakanth, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **REENA VINCENT,** W/o Sri Premkumar Nathaniel Devadason, aged about 45 years, R/a No. 259, 5th Cross Street, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560034, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **REENA VINCENT** and **REENA .V** are one and the same and belongs to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **REENA VINCENT** only, vide affidavit dated 23-08-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

DECLARATION
I, Jayalakshmamma, W/o. Late B M Vasudevaiah, aged about 75 years, Residing at No. 15, New No. 83, 3rd Cross, 5th Main Road, Near Basavanagudi Main Road, Tyagarajanagar, Bangalore-560028 Declare that my name was JAYAMMA and I was subsequently called as JAYALAKSHMAMMA and above both names belong to me only. Vide affidavit dated 17-08-2021 sworn before notary B.K.R. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRUTHIRAJ CHHATRIA,** aged 33 years, S/o Ashakari Chhatria, R/a No. 768/187, Site No. 19, 20th Ground, Nagareshwara Naganahalli, K Narayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560077, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANIL KASHYAP** to **PRUTHIRAJ CHHATRIA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **PRUTHIRAJ CHHATRIA** only, vide affidavit dated 21-08-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C.V. EARAPPA** at Bangalore.

DECLARATION
I, Jayalakshmamma, W/o. Late B M Vasudevaiah, aged about 75 years, Residing at No. 15, New No. 83, 3rd Cross, 5th Main Road, Near Basavanagudi Main Road, Tyagarajanagar, Bangalore-560028 Declare that my name was JAYAMMA and I was subsequently called as JAYALAKSHMAMMA and above both names belong to me only. Vide affidavit dated 17-08-2021 sworn before notary B.K.R. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, (1) **Ravikiran.M** S/o Late Mariyappa. S @Ningaraju Aged about 25 Years & (2) **Chandrashekar.M** S/o Late Mariyappa, S @ Ningaraju Aged about 20 Years, Both are R/at No. 20, Hanumakka Compound, Vinobha Colony, Avalahalli, Mysore Road, Bangalore-560026. We declared that, in future our deceased father's name shall be declared as **S.Mariyappa** for all our school records instead of **Ningaraju** in future vide affidavit Dated: 10/08/2021 before Notary K.C. Gowthami Bangalore.

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The Nehrunagar Co-operative Bank Limited

#587, 2nd 'A' Main 11th Block, 2nd Stage Nagarbhavi, Near Papireddypalya Circle, Bengaluru - 560 072 Ph : 23182333 / 23212333 E-mail : nehrungr@rediffmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE - IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sri Pradeep B.K.

The under signed being the Authorised officer of The Nehrunagar Co-operative Bank Limited, No.587, 2nd 'A' Main 11th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarbhavi, Near Papireddypalya Circle, Bengaluru-560 072, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assests an Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated 23/02/2021 calling upon to repay the loan amount of Rs.37,00,613/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Six Hundred Thirteen only) as on 25/03/2021 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the entire loan amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public general that the under signed has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred, on them under section under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this 23rd August 2021. The borrowers in particular and the public in general here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Nehrunagar Co-operative Bank Limited.

Borrowers : Sri Pradeep B.K. S/o. Krishnappa B.M. Total Amount Due Rs.38,98,096/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Ninety Six only)

Description of property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.19. 4th Cross, Mysore Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-26, PID No.41-49-19, Measuring : East-West 40ft. North-South 60ft. East by : P. Rangappa's Property West by : Avalahalli Halina Hanumanthappa's Property North by : Conservency Road South by : Road

Sd/-
Place : Bengaluru
Date : 23-08-2021
For The Nehrunagar Co-operative Bank Limited
Authorized Officer

STATE BANK OF INDIA

PARAMANNA LAYOUT BRANCH
BH Road, Nelamangala 562123, Bangalore Rural Dist,
TEL : 080-27725511, Email Id: sbi.40331@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the **State Bank of India, Paramanna Layout Branch, Nelamangala,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice against their names, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice,

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of Act, read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India,** for an amount mentioned as follows and interest plus charges thereon, till the date of realization of the dues. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers	Date of Possession Notice and Amount and Demand notice Amount & Date.	Description of the Immovable Property
1.	**A/c No: 64028219550/ DRS Sri M Kempaiah** S/o Late Muniyappa, # 75, Narasipura, Mathahalli, Dasanapura Post, Bangalore North - 562123, Also @: Sri M Kempaiah S/o Late Muniyappa, C/o Himalaya Drugs Company Ltd., Makali, Bangalore North- 562123.	**Possession Date : 18.08.2021 Rs. 3,85,363/- as on 18.08.2021 and interest from 19.08.2021 Demand Notice Date. 16.06.2021**	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Khata No. 44/23/33 Old No. 23, Situated at Narasipura village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk -562130, measuring East to West 18 Ft., and North to South 28 Ft., Standing in the name of Sri Kempaiah, and bounded on: **East by :** Muniyappa's House, **West by :** Property of Rathnamma & Gangaraju **North by :** Road, **South by :** Gangappa's House
2.	**A/c No: 64027981076/ DRS Sri Thirumalaiah** S/o Puttaiah, @: 1) Nagarur, Dasanapura Post, Bangalore North-562123, **2) Sri Thirumalaiah** S/o Puttaiah, C/o Himalaya Drugs Company Ltd., Makali, Bangalore North- 562123, **3) Sri Thirumalaiah** S/o Puttaiah, Khata No. 617/83, Nagarur, Dasanapura Post, Bangalore North- 562123.	**Possession Date : 18.08.2021 Rs. 3,04,369/- as on 18.08.2021 and interest from 19.08.2021 Demand Notice Date. 16.06.2021**	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Khata No. 617/83, Situated at Nagarur village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk - 562130, measuring East to West 53 Ft., and North to South 19.5 Ft., Standing in the name of Sri Thirumalaiah, and bounded on: **East by :** Road, **West by :** Property of Ananthaiah & Rangachar **North by :** Property of Chennagiriyppa **South by :** Property of NP Ashwathappa

Date: 18.08.2021
Place : Nelamangala
Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA, Paramanna Layout Branch, Nelamangala

₹7,245 cr have been pumped into the Indian capital markets by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in August so far

Going global with your investment portfolio

Over the past year, the number of retail participants has exploded and so has their interest in overseas securities

JONATHAN ANANDA @ Chennai

INDIAN retail investors have rapidly come of age over the past decade and the new crop of market participants are no longer satisfied with staying confined to the limited opportunities offered by Indian stock markets. Over the past year, in particular, market executives say the number of retail participants has exploded and so has their interest in overseas securities.

The increased demand for access to international securities has also resulted in the proliferation of mutual funds focused on overseas investments. And quite recently, both Indian stock exchanges—BSE and NSE—have announced that they would each enable an international trading platform to let Indian investors pick up stakes in US-based stocks.

But, why is this trend of geographical portfolio diversification gathering pace? And how can one invest in overseas securities? Here's what multiple portfolio and wealth management experts who spoke to TNIE have to say:

Diversify portfolios

The primary driving force behind increased overseas participation is diversification. Because, at its core, a more diverse portfolio of investments offers both wider opportunities for gains and some protection in case one or more investments begin doing poorly. For instance, while average annual returns from Indian equity markets have moderated to single digits over the past five years, some markets such as Taiwan and the US have offered nearly 18-20% annualised gains during the same period.

"Allocating some of your portfolio for overseas securities acts as a hedge," pointed out Pratik Oswal, Head of Passive Funds, Asset Management Company at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

According to Ashish Ranawade, Head of Products, Emkay Wealth Management, investing abroad has many advantages. "First is the ability to invest in companies which cater to a large market globally. This means the investments are into very large-cap market companies with huge opportunities... And to that extent, the investments can be considered as less risky," he said.

"These are opportunities which may not be available in the Indian Markets. For eg. Material Sciences, Space Technologies, AI and ML opportunities. Certain markets may be more mature than India for certain types of products. The ability to invest in such kinds of companies (like Walt Disney in entertainment, or Estee Lauder and LVMH in Luxury goods, or Tesla for Electric Vehicles)," Ranawade added.

India has several overseas-focused mutual funds that have exclusive, or partial exposure to international securities. These include the Edelweiss Greater China Equity Off-Shore Fund, Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 ETF, Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund, PGIM India Global Opportunities Fund, etc.

According to Aashish P Somaiyaa, Chief Executive Officer, White Oak Capital Management, apart from the standard risks associated with investing in equity, there aren't major cons that should stop investors from venturing abroad. Another major factor to consider is the effect of currency movements on overseas investments. For instance, the depreciating trend of the Indian rupee against the dollar before the onset of the pandemic made returns from dollar-denominated securities that much more attractive. "Till now, INR depreciation added another 4-5% annually to the overseas returns. How it will perform going forward will always be an uncertainty," Ranawade said.

Investment routes

But how does one make such overseas investments? Experts say there are two broad avenues: first, the do-it-yourself (DIY) method, where one sets up a foreign currency bank and brokerage accounts under the RBI's liberal remittance scheme (LRS) and directly buys foreign securities. The other is to go through mutual fund schemes that either buy overseas stocks directly or act as feeders for international funds.

For new investors and those with a smaller investment corpus, the expert consensus is to take the mutual fund route. "Some large overseas stocks can be quite expensive... Amazon Inc is valued at $3,200 a share (₹2.4 lakh)," said Oswal, noting that MFs can help defray this cost barrier.

According to Somaiyaa, apart from the advantage of getting professional assistance while going through MFs there are two other reasons for doing so. "First is that, across mutual funds, the variety and choice of international funds, geographies, and asset classes is quite large. Secondly, if one goes via opening LRS accounts there is a 5% tax collected at source on remittance. This can be claimed back while filing IT returns but it is a source of friction and inefficiency while investing."

ANNUALISED GAINS ON GLOBAL MSCI ETFS (IN %)

STOCK INDEX	1-YEAR	3-YEAR	5-YEAR
Taiwan (EWT)	45.28	21.92	19.14
Netherlands (EWN)	48.57	18.27	17.96
US Large Caps (SPY)	36.31	18.08	17.26
Denmark (EDEN)	41.71	19.91	16.21
Russia (ERUS)	32.57	14.33	15.29
Sweden (EWD)	47.4	17.42	15.09
Saudi Arabia (KSA)	49.86	10.76	14.82
Switzerland (EWL)	26.31	15.23	12.99
Austria (EWO)	67.2	2.98	12.45
France (EWQ)	39.39	8.45	12.05
South Korea (EWY)	48.42	11.25	11.64
Italy (EWI)	34.08	5.78	10.91
Ireland (EIRL)	46.45	8.74	10.82
Canada (EWC)	39.25	10.99	10.46
Norway (NORW)	39.16	2.23	9.51
India (INDA)	40.16	8.66	9.46

MONEY-WISE

THE MAGIC OF SIP TOP-UPS

AT a recent online session I was conducting for students, amidst all the questions on cryptocurrencies and complex derivative strategies, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a more conventional question pertaining to mutual fund investing.

The young lady said she had already started investing a small amount of money monthly via the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) route in a mutual fund scheme out of her earnings from a part-time job. After I congratulated her for being an early starter which is ideal, she raised her query about SIP Top-Ups and the advantages she might derive by using this approach.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Well, a SIP Top-up is a facility wherein an investor who has enrolled for SIP has an option to increase the amount of their SIP instalment by a fixed amount or percentage at predefined intervals.

This increase can be linked to future income and growth. Investors can specify the upper limit to cap the top-up either in terms of the amount or the month and year. Topping-up the SIP will stop when the defined cap is reached. The top-up facility is an efficient way to keep your savings growing in line with your income.

Using a top-up facility, an investor can increase their monthly contribution in an ongoing SIP. While most mutual fund houses refer to it as Top-Up, some others call it SIP Booster or SIP Step-Up facility. Most prominent fund houses offer this facility to investors.

Some of the key advantages of a Top-Up SIP include its ability to keep your savings keep pace with the rise in inflation. Although this sounds innocuous, it plays a vital role in ensuring one is not left with idle funds that do not work towards beating the inflation rate. Then, Top-Ups provide Operational convenience as there is no need to submit a fresh ECS Bank Debit Mandate in order to Top-up existing SIPs. At the same time, one should note here that that once they opt for the SIP Top-up facility, no modification can be made to the same. The investor will have to cancel the current SIP and enrol for a new one.

SIP Top-Ups can help investors reach their financial goals faster as they incrementally accumulate towards the goal target amount sooner than the originally projected time frame. Again, most salaried individuals expect a yearly salary hike and may get bonuses on annual basis. A SIP Top-up option increases the investment of one's Savings, alongside Salary growth.

Post the session, one of my young team members worked out the number impact that a SIP Top-Up could potentially have on a performing mutual fund scheme over a long time frame. The results were impressive. I am sharing the same below.

Option 1: Only SIP; SIP ₹10k p.m. -- Corpus after 15 years @ 12% CAGR = ₹47.5 Lakh

Option 2 : SIP + TOP-UP; SIP ₹10k p.m.; Top Up ₹2k p.m. (further increased yearly too by additional ₹2k p.m.)-- Corpus after 15 years @ 12% CAGR = ₹95 Lakh

Of course, the key lies in selecting a mutual fund scheme that will perform over a 15 year time frame. There is no dearth of such schemes in the Indian mutual fund universe but to select them, one would do well to seek professional advise.

TECH GLITCH

Infosys CEO summoned by FinMin over I-T portal mess

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE new e-filing portal has become a major embarrassment for the government as technical glitches continue to mar the functioning of the website even after two and a half months of its launch.

The finance ministry on Sunday through a tweet informed that it has summoned Salil Parekh, managing director and CEO of Infosys, which had developed the new website, on Monday to explain to the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman as to why they cannot fix the glitches once and for all. The decision to call Parekh came after the website stopped working on 21 August, and the website has been under maintenance since then.

The e-filing website was formally launched on 7 June 2021 after shutting down the old one. Taxpayers have been facing several problems since the launch of the website. Users had complained that the website was working very slowly and even small things like updating of profile, changing of passwords are taking a lot of time. Some users are finding it difficult to file TDS returns, while newly incorporated entities are unable to register.

Recently, the website has been charging late fees for filing returns despite the government extending the date filing return till 30 September 2021.

The finance minister had in June met officials of Infosys along with those of Institute of Chartered Accountants for India (ICAI) to discuss the issues faced by the portal. The ministry had asked the ICAI to form a seven-member taskforce to look into the matter.

Recently, the finance minister in a media briefing told reporters that there were suggestions to make the older website available till the glitches in the new one were fixed. However, the finance minister said the same was not possible as many of the new features required as per the new ITR forms were not available in the old website.

The government had paid ₹165 crore between January 2019 and June 2021 to Infosys to build the new e-filing portal, it recently informed the parliament.

WHY KEEP TRACK OF RBI COMMITTEE MINUTES

RAJAS KELKAR

THESE are perhaps the most important minutes kept of a meeting. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee meets every two months to determine key borrowing rates. The RBI releases the minutes of the meeting a couple of weeks later. Financial markets keenly await the release of these minutes. While the RBI governor releases a detailed report and statements after the committee's discussions, these minutes have insights into how committee members view the outlook for inflation and economic growth. It is true in other large economies too. Markets around the world track the minutes of the US Federal Reserve committee on interest rates.

What to look for

If you find the RBI release on the monetary policy day and the subsequent media coverage overwhelming, you can rely on these minutes to get a perspective. You will get more than one. These minutes record elaborate views of every committee member on the two most important factors for your money — inflation and growth.

Those, in the thick of finance, are looking for leads — that edge to read into the fine print to make money. However, if you are not a finance person and are looking to understand the forces that influence your money, you must give this document a read. The committee meets once in two months.

The inflation rate in the economy affects your investments and savings like none other. A consumer price inflation rate of 6% means you are losing money on all your savings, fixed deposit accounts. Inflation is eroding everything that you hope would save you on a rainy day. You need to understand the trend once in two months. Factors that influence inflation are explained well in the views of the committee members.

For example, here is one observation by J R Varma, a committee member, in the latest minutes of the meeting.

"After averaging above 6% in 2020-21, inflation is forecast to be well above 5% in 2021-22 and is not expected to drop below 5% even in the first quarter of 2022-23 according to RBI projections. While there is some comfort that inflation is forecast to be below the upper end of the tolerance band, it is important to emphasise that the inflation target for the MPC is 4% and not 6% or even 5%."

The committee member is voicing concern over the persistently high inflation rate. For the next 12-18 months, the inflation rate is likely to remain well above 5%. The committee targets an inflation rate of 4%. There is a thought that the committee should ease the limit and allow a higher inflation rate to prevail to support growth. When the inflation rate rises, you tend to raise interest rates. The committee changes the repo rate or the rate at which RBI lends money to banks. That works as a benchmark for borrowing rates that banks put on our loans. Over the past few months, the economic slowdown meant RBI has to maintain low rates. If borrowing rates in the economy rise, that could hurt any chance of a revival in the economy.

The growth projection

The other helpful commentary is about economic growth. For example, here is a statement by another member Mridul K Sagar: Growth recovery remains fragile, accentuated by the dent caused by the second wave and continued uncertainties about pandemics driven by distance to herd immunity and virus mutations. Risks that recovery can falter ahead remain on a number of counts.

The RBI committee expected a regular monsoon season. However, the latest indicators suggest that the monsoon is falling short of expectations. Besides that, the services sector that accounts for more than half of India's economic growth is still performing below the pre-pandemic levels.

What it means to you

Inflation erodes the value of your savings and investment. At the same time, efforts are on to boost economic growth. You need to increase your regular investments. You need to increase your exposure to equity or equity-linked assets. However, there is another problem. Benchmark indices are trading at a record high. If you have yet to start investing, you may want to take the first steps by putting money into hybrid mutual funds as share prices could turn volatile in the short term.

(The writer is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

EXPRESS READ

Tata Realty to invest `4k cr in projects over 2 yrs

Mumbai: Tata Realty and Infrastructure is investing around Rs 2,000 crore each into residential and commercial projects over the next two years, including re-launching the stalled Mulund project in Mumbai, on the back of a significant growth in sales last year and the steady pick-up in demand, a top company official has said. The Tata Group firm, which focuses on residential, commercial and retail properties in the realty space and large infrastructure projects, is witnessing higher demand, especially for ready-to-move-in residential units now, PTI reported.

MG Motor to invest ₹2.5k cr in Halol plant

New Delhi: MG Motor India is investing Rs 2,500 crore by the end of next year to increase the production capacity at its Halol plant in Gujarat, according to a top company official. Despite the worsening semiconductor shortage situation, which is likely to continue for at least another six months, the company expects its sales this year to grow by up to 100% over last year, PTI reported.

Xiaomi to offer financial services

New Delhi: Xiaomi is bringing in offerings like gold loans, credit line cards and insurance products as it looks to provide the full spectrum of financial services in India, its India head Manu Jain said. Speaking with PTI, Jain said these services will be offered in partnership with organisations like Axis Bank, IDFC Bank, Aditya Birla Finance Ltd, Stashfin, Money View, Early Salary and Credit Vidya.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

GUJ. STATE PETRONET

Current Price ₹372.95

Target Price ₹500

Over the last five years, GUJS's EBITDA grew by ~11% CAGR, in line with the ~10% volume CAGR. The management expects over 10- 12% volume CAGR over the next 4-5 years as available LNG regas capacity is expected to jump by 75% to 42mmtpa over the next 2-3 years in Gujarat. We continue to maintain Buy rating.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Market likely to be volatile this week; global factors to drive movement

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

INDIA'S equity market benchmark indexes- BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50- ended their bull run last week on account of negative global developments such as sooner-than-expected tapering in monetary stimulus by the US Federal Reserve, rising cases of the Delta variant of the coronavirus and China's regulatory crackdown on its listed companies.

Amid heavy selling on Friday, Sensex ended the week 107.97 points lower at 55,329.32 and the Nifty fell 78.60 points to 16,450.50. Global markets too contracted last week.

With earning season getting over and absence of any major domestic event beside the monthly expiry of futures & options contracts, it will be the global factors that would shape market movement this week.

Experts say, traders should observe support level very closely as this week may turn out to be another volatile one.

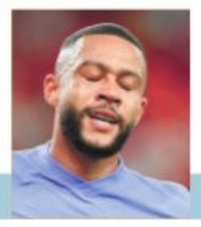
"For the coming week, the cluster of supports at 16350 – 16250 – 16150 (Nifty) are to be observed closely. As of now, there is no indication of Nifty sliding below the lower range of this support zone. But you never know how global developments pan out," said Sameet Chavan (Chief Analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking).

Talking about sharp sell-off across sectors, Chavan said if we meticulously observe the individual stocks outside IT and FMCG spaces, the brutal knocks are visible.

"There has literally been an onslaught in many counters from the derivatives space as well, which is really heartbreaking for traders as they got trapped all of a sudden looking at the bright posturing of benchmark indices," he added. Gaurav Garg, Head of Research CapitalVia Global Research said that the domestic cues are good, and both unicorns and traditional companies are lining up to go public. But there are few things that may trouble the markets.

"First, the central government of Sri Lanka raised interest rates for the first time since the epidemic hit the world, making it the first Asian country to do so. Second, the US central government is signalling that the liquidity it provides to the market would be tightened, and finally the Taliban capturing the Afghanistan which had already hampered the imports and exports of India with that country," Garg told TNIE.

Depay opens his account for Barca in La Liga



Barcelona were given a torrid time by Athletic Bilbao but escaped from their trip to San Mames with a point as Memphis Depay's superb late strike secured a 1-1 draw for the Catalans on Saturday. Depay found the net with a fine left-foot half-volley 15 minutes from time in the Basque Country for his first goal in La Liga since moving to Barcelona from Lyon.

SHAILI'S FIRST STEP TOWARDS STARDOM

Four years after being spotted by Anju George, 17-year-old long-jumper wins historic silver at World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi

3
India finish campaign with 3 medals, their best performance ever

KNOW SHAILI SINGH | DOB JAN 7, 2004

- Won Indian U16 event in Ranchi in 2018, her first big win
- Won Inter-State senior Nationals with a mark of 6.48m, setting a new national junior record in the process
- Originally from Jhansi, she trains at the Anju Bobby George Foundation in Bengaluru

PROGRESSION OF SHAILI'S PERSONAL BESTS

5.94m	2018
6.01m	2019
6.48m	2021
6.59m	2021

HER 6 JUMPS

The 4th & 5th attempts were invalid

1. 6.34m
2. 6.34m
3. 6.59m
6. 6.37m

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

JUST before the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi, India's only senior world championships medallist, Anju Bobby George, said this apropos Shaili Singh. "She is in that 6.60m range." On Sunday, her words were prophetic. The distance Shaili managed to clear in her third attempt was 6.59m, enough to fetch her a historic silver behind Sweden's Maja Askag in the long jump final. The Swede jumped 6.60m.

Sometimes, a nudge in the back is all that an athlete needs to produce the best. In this case, Shaili was pushed to fourth after Tessy Ebosele produced 6.45m with her first jump. Shaili's second jump was identical to her first: 6.34m.

Only one jump. Just one leap... that's all that matters. Shaili knew about it.

But what was impressive about her mark of 6.59m (wind assisted) — on her third attempt — is that the 17-year-old not only produced her personal best but is even threatening to overshadow her mentor and coach, Anju. The glitter is even sweeter for Anju and her husband and coach Robert Bobby George. The two fought their way through the world when government aid and support were not as quite forthcoming as it is now. They know how difficult it is to produce champions in the present set-up. Yet the two undertook this perilous journey to produce champions in a discipline both knew about and loved.

After the second jump, the girl from Jhansi looked distressed. She was shaking her head. She knew she was capable of doing better. Her movement across the track was smooth, she gained enough momentum and leaped. Her jump off the ground and the last lunge forward too looked good. There is one step that she would have to take a relook. She was off the take off board by a few centimetres. She went to speak with her coach and Robert George pointed out that there was enough space between the foul mark and her take-off. "I just told her to take full advantage of the take off board," Robert told this newspaper from Nairobi. "It is 20cm wide and if she manages a perfect take-off she would clear 6.54m. But she did 6.59m. It's all her effort and the way she kept her focus is commendable."

Even during her greatest triumph, Shaili did not forget the hardhip her mother, Vinita, endured back home in UP. "She (Vinita is a single parent) has gone through a lot but she is a very strong lady," she said. "Even before the meet I had spoken to her and she said I would win gold. Hopefully, next time I shall." In fact it was her mother who helped her take up the sport.

Shaili was picked by Anju and Robert during an inter-disctrict competition when she was just 14. Since then she has been nurtured at the Anju Bobby George academy in Bengaluru. Shaili has not gone home since December last year despite lockdown. When the second lockdown was announced and the hostel at the Bengaluru SAI centre was shut, she had to shift to Anju's house in Kengeri. The athlete is part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme's development group. "We had to even dig a pit for her to jump during lockdown and the girls were training and cooking and taking care of the hostel," Robert said.

Another aspect that Robert had been emphasising was scouting an athlete at a proper age. "When we spotted her she was 14, it was a perfect age," he said. "It is very difficult to unlearn. The brain's ability to learn and retain is key. We have to think about brain's neuroplasticity. If something has already been registered it takes a lot of time to change. We were lucky to have got such a talented youngster so early." Anju too was delighted. "I have been saying that she is capable of doing 6.60m. She is very good and we hope to nurture her more."

TN TRIPLE JUMPER DONALD FINISHES FOURTH

Tamil Nadu's M Donald missed out on a medal by a narrow margin as he finished fourth in the men's triple jump final on the final day of the World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sunday. He also achieved his personal best on the occasion, with a jump of 15.82m in his fifth attempt. The 19-year-old is originally from Tiruchy but currently trains in Coimbatore.

Jr boxers Ashish, Anshul in last 4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TAKING part in their second fight in the ongoing Asian Junior and Youth Championships in Dubai, Ashish and Anshul posted eye-catching wins to book the last four berths and assure a medal for India.

Ashish (54kg), with a southpaw stance, was quick off the blocks and had his opponent on the ropes within 20 seconds. With quick feet and hands, he threw a barrage of punches to dominate the proceedings early on. Jafar hit some counter-punches but that did not seem to slow down the Indian who seemed intent on pocketing the opening round. And he managed to do just that with all the ringside judges voting in favour of him. The start of the second round was similar to the first with both the boxers going after each other, trading some heavy blows. Ashish managed to land some heavy punches with his left against his opponent, who had a marginal height advantage. Ashish also showed some good game sense by defending, with his guard up, ensuring that he held on to his advantage. That strategy worked as he went on to pocket the second round as well.

The tale was no different in the final round, with Ashish managing it well. With this victory, Ashish marched into the semifinals and was assured of at least a bronze medal.

Earlier, Krish Pal (46kg) suffered a defeat in the quarterfinals. He was no competition for Uzbekistan's Yakhshiboev Ba. The Uzbek boxer was so dominant that the referee was forced to stop the contest in the second round.

Anshul (57kg) was mighty impressive, winning his fight in just over one minute. Up against Mansoor Khaled Almahri, the Indian boxer was too superior, landing some telling blows. Mansoor was subjected to a standing count after just 50 seconds.

Three punches after the bout resumed, the referee had seen enough. Anshul entered the semifinals with this impressive win. Later, Preet Malik (63kg) suffered a narrow defeat against Esembaev Eldar.

EXPRESS READ

Aditi slips in tough weather conditions

CARNOUSTIE: Aditi Ashok had an off-day at the Carnoustie Links as she carded a roller-coaster three-over 75 in tough and challenging weather conditions to slip to T-58 with one round to go in the AIG Women's Open. Aditi had a rough start with three bogeys in a row from second to fourth but made up with three birdies in a row from sixth to eighth and turned in even par. On the back nine of the Links course, she bogeyed 11th and closed with a double bogey on the tough 18th.

1960 Rome Olympian Hakim passes away

KALABURAGI: Former India footballer Syed Shahid Hakim, who was part of the squad in the 1960 Rome Olympics, passed away in Kalaburagi on Sunday. He was 82. His body was taken to Hyderabad to perform the final rites, family sources said. He had very recently suffered a stroke. He was a fomer coach a qualified FIFA referee too.

Wrestler Ravi loses bronze play-off

UFA (RUSSIA): The Indian Greco Roman contingent will return without any medal from the junior world championship as Ravi Malik lost his 82kg bronze medal play-off by technical superiority in 42 seconds on Sunday.

Upbeat India look to pile further misery on England

With the third Test between England and India beginning on on Wednesday, here's a look at what to expect in Leeds.

DRY WEATHER
This will come as a big relief to fans as dry weather is predicted for all five days. This could influence the thinking of both captains when they name their playing XI. However, as with all weather predictions, take this with a bunch of salt.

ENGLAND'S TOP-ORDER
With Dom Sibley dropped and Dawid Malan drafted in, expect the southpaw to come in at No 3, with Haseeb Hameed opening with Rory Burns. Ollie Pope is also in the squad but it's hard to see him getting a look in at the moment.

INDIA'S COMBINATION
The dry weather during the course of the match could tempt them into including R Ashwin but, as it stands, that's unlikely. It could even be an unchanged line-up. Spinners have traditionally not done well here.

IDEAL FOR FAST BOWLERS
139/5. 78/5. 140/5. 83/5. 144/5. 161/5. Even in an era that's difficult for batting in Tests, the side batting first at Leeds has tended to lose half their side quickly since 2014. Interestingly, the side batting 2nd has won the last 3 times.

India skipper Virat Kohli bats during a net session in Headingley on Sunday

14
Spinners have altogether accounted for 14 wickets in the last three Tests at Leeds in Headingley

Paralympics set to open under shadow of Covid

AFP @ Tokyo

THE Tokyo Paralympics open Tuesday after a year-long pandemic delay and with the virus continuing to cast a long shadow as Japan battles a record surge in cases.

As at the Olympics, the event will be marked by strict virus rules, with almost all spectators banned and tough restrictions on athletes and other participants.

While a swell of domestic support emerged during the Olympics after months of negative polls, there is deep concern in Japan as the Paralympics approach with the country going through a fifth virus wave.

More than 25,000 new cases were recorded on Thursday, and medics across the country have warned hospitals are at breaking point with serious cases also at record highs.

It's a challenging environment for the most important sports event for disabled athletes, and International Paralympic Committee chief Andrew Parsons has warned participants against complacency.

Despite the backdrop, IPC officials insist the reach of the event will be "incredible."

"Of course the fact that we will not have spectators at the venues is a challenge," Parsons said.

"But we believe we will reach more than four billion people through broadcasting."

Local officials say the Games can be held safely, with athletes and other participants subject to the same anti-infection rules that applied to the Olympics.

Competitors can only enter the Paralympic Village shortly before their event and must leave within 48 hours of the end of their competition.

They will be tested daily and limited to moving between training venues, competition sites and the Village.

The measures are intended to prevent the Games from becoming a superspreader event — and officials say the Olympics proved the restrictions work.

There were 552 positive cases linked to the Olympics reported from July 1 until Sunday, the majority among Japan residents employed by the Games or working as contractors.

So far, 138 cases related to the Paralympics have been confirmed, also mostly among Japan-based Olympic officials, though at least four athletes have also tested positive.

FOOTBALL

Returning Lukaku scores as Chelsea see off Arsenal

AGENCIES @ London

ROMELU Lukaku marked his second Chelsea debut with a goal to help the team beat Arsenal 2-0 in the London derby during their Premier League encounter at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

The Blues' £98 million record signing scored the opening goal of the match in the 15th minute with a simple tap in after getting a fine cross from full-back Reece James.

James then went on to double Chelsea's lead with a thumping finish into the top-left corner.

With this win, Chelsea moved level on points with title rivals Liverpool on top. The two teams will clash against each other next on Saturday.

Earlier, Harry Kane made his first appearance for Tottenham this season as Nuno Espirito Santo earned a 1-0 win against his former club Wolves, while Mason Greenwood salvaged a 1-1 draw for Manchester United at Southampton.

Striker Kane came off the bench in the second half at Molineux after the Manchester City transfer target missed the first two games following his late return from his close-season holiday. The England captain, frustrated by Spurs' 13-year trophy drought, hopes to force a move to Premier League champions City before the August 31 transfer deadline.

Kane was left out of Tottenham's squad when they beat City in their Premier League opener last weekend and also missed Thursday's Europa Conference League defeat at Portuguese side Pacos de Ferreira. Tottenham were already leading through Dele Alli's 10th minute penalty by the time Kane arrived on the scene. Alli was fouled by Wolves keeper Jose Sa and the midfielder picked himself up to convert the spot-kick.

Man United held

At St Mary's, Manchester United failed to build on last weekend's 5-1 demolition of Leeds.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side needed a Mason Greenwood equaliser to rescue a point after Fred's own goal. While United left the south-coast frustrated, they did equal Arsenal's English top-flight record of 27 successive away league games without defeat.

Results: Southampton 1-1 Man United, Wolves 0-1 Tottenham, Arsenal 0-2 Chelsea.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE (FPI)
Bengaluru-Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060.
Ph: 080-2697 1000, Fax: 080-2697 1010, website: www.fpibengaluru.karnataka.gov.in
No:FPI/Proc/Garden/01/2021-22 Date: 23.08.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (REVISED)

Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) invites Tender in two-tender document system i.e. Technical and Financial, through e-procurement portal from the reputed agencies for the following services as per the Schedule of Tender given below:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Brief description of the tender
1	No. FPI/Proc/ Garden/01/ 2021-22 (Last date:08.09.2021)	Tender To Provide Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Landscape, Garden and Potted Plants etc., in FPI Campus.

The Tender details may be seen on website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & fpibengaluru.karnataka.gov.in. Prospective tenderers can obtain clarifications if any from this office.

DIPR/DDU/YC/1255/2021-22 Sd/- Additional Director (Admn)

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पत्र सं. 596, e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 22.08.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites online tenders for following work:
Tender No: 04/EE(maint.)/Khodri/2021-22 for Capital maintenance of 30 MW Hydro Generator Unit No. 3 of Khodri Power Station.
Estimated cost: Rs. 6,16,00,000/-
Date of availability of tender on website: 21.08.2021, 18:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of bid on website: 13.09.2021 up to 16:00 hrs
For downloading tender documents and details, please visit e-procurement portal "**http://uktenders.gov.in**"
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Ph: 0824-2413912

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Last date for Submission 14-09-2021 by 4:00 P.M.
For tender copy, detailed terms & conditions please visit the tender section of Bank's website at: **www.bankofbaroda.com**
Bank reserves the right to reject any / all tenders without assigning the reason whatsoever. Corrigendum / Addendum will be published in website only.

Place: Mangaluru Sd/-
Date: 23-08-2021 General Manager

ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಕುದೇರು, ಸಂತೇಮರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೊಬಳಿ, ಕುದೇರು (ಅಂಚೆ) ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ – 571 316
[PHONE NO. 08226- 234848, FAX NO. 08226-234040 E-mail: admnchamul@gmail.com]

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಚಾಮುಲ್/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಹ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/02/2021 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.08.2021

ಇ– ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಕುದೇರು ಡೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲು, ಮೊಸರು, ಮಜ್ಜಿಗೆ, ಲಸ್ಸಿ, ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ/ಡಬ್ಲೂ.ಎಂ.ಪಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್, ಕ್ರೇಟ್ ವಾಷಿಂಗ್, ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರದ ಕ್ಲೀನಿಂಗ್ ಮತ್ತು ಹಾಲಿನ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ರವಾನೆಯ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ESI ಮತ್ತು PF ಕೋಡ್ ನಂ. ಹೊಂದಿರುವ, ಸೇವಾ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ವೃತ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಮತ್ತು e-procurement portal of Govt.of Karnataka ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು (Access to E-Tender) ಲಭ್ಯತೆ: ದಿನಾಂಕ 23.08.2021 ರಿಂದ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 22.09.2021 ರ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ / ಸಮಯ: 24.09.2021 ರಂದು 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.
4) ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ / ಸಮಯ: 27.09.2021 ರಂದು 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.
5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ; ಕುದೇರು, ಸಂತೇಮರಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಕುದೇರು (ಅಂಚೆ), ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ–571316.

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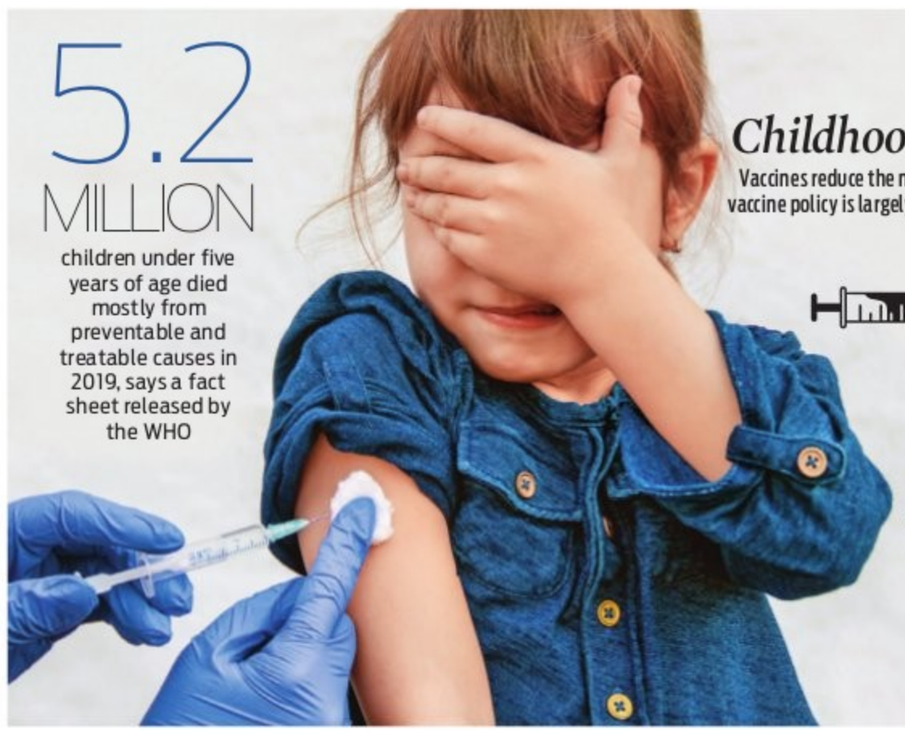


5.2 MILLION

children under five years of age died mostly from preventable and treatable causes in 2019, says a fact sheet released by the WHO

EXFILE • HEALTH

Childhood vaccine mandates across the world

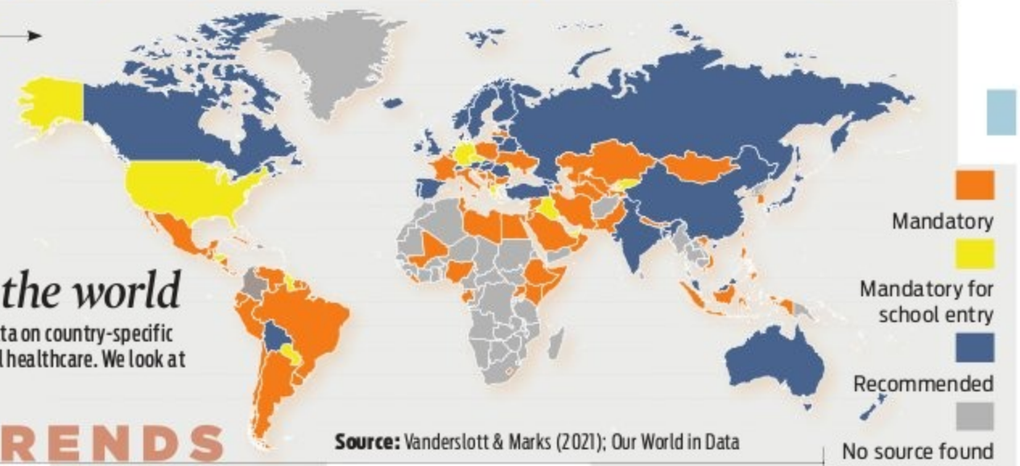
Vaccines reduce the number of children who die every day to preventable diseases. Data on country-specific vaccine policy is largely patchy, despite child mortality being a key indicator of national healthcare. We look at a new dataset that has collated these policies

DISEASES FOR WHICH VACCINATIONS ARE CONSIDERED IN THE MAP

● Measles ● Mumps ● Rubella ● Diphtheria ● Tetanus ● Pertussis ● Polio ● Rabies ● Hepatitis B ● Rotavirus ● Haemophilus ● Influenzae type B ● Tuberculosis

CATCHING 'EM YOUNG

The map shows whether a country has mandatory vaccination for at least one childhood vaccine and the strictness of this mandate in three levels



Source: Vanderslott & Marks (2021); Our World in Data

VACCINE TRENDS

EUROPE

European countries introduced smallpox vaccinations in the 19th century and had faced early pushbacks. The USSR had mandated vaccines and many eastern European countries followed suit, and still stick to that policy. This could be the reason for a mix of mandatory and recommended trend in Europe

AMERICAS

In Americas most countries have mandated vaccines. Canada is an outlier with vaccines made mandatory for children enrolling in school. In USA, the policies are state specific even though it is made mandatory for school entry at the national level

WESTERN PACIFIC

In Western Pacific, policies have swayed to both sides. Singapore has made vaccines mandatory while in Japan it is recommended. In China, there is no evidence that vaccine is mandatory even though reports have claimed otherwise

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

The region has mostly mandated vaccines. For example: Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia. However, Israel has a recommended status and Iraq has made vaccination mandatory for school entry

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

The region has many mandatory status countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam. However, policies in some larger countries such as India and Australia are different across states

WHEN ARE VACCINES MADE MANDATORY?

Disease outbreak is an important driver especially in high and upper-middle-income countries such as Germany that mandated measles vaccines for schools in 2020 after a large outbreak

Taliban to inherit minerals worth $1 trillion

China to gain as it is open to friendly relations with Taliban; resources include lithium, copper, bauxite & rare earths

GEOLOGY

THE Taliban now hold the keys to an untouched trillion-dollar trove of minerals including some that could power the world's transition to renewable energies, but Afghanistan has long struggled to tap its vast deposits.

The Taliban are already in a financial bind since they returned to power after 20 years, as major aid donors halted their support for Afghanistan. Endless wars and poor infrastructure have prevented the country from getting its hands on the metals that could brighten its economic fortunes.

The resources include bauxite, copper, iron ore, lithium and rare earths, according to a January report by the US Geological Survey (USGS). Copper, which is needed to make power cables, became a hot commodity this year as prices soared to more than $10,000 per tonne.

Lithium is a crucial element to make electric car batteries, solar panels and wind farms. World demand for lithium is expected to grow by over 40 times by 2040, according to the International Energy Agency.

And Afghanistan "sits on a huge reserve of lithium that has not been tapped to this day," said Guillaume Pitron, author of the book "The Rare Metals War". Afghanistan is also home to rare earths that are used in the clean energy sector: Neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium.

The country's untapped mineral riches have been estimated at $1 trillion by the USGS, though Afghan officials have put it three times as high.

Mes Aynak valley, 40 km southwest of Kabul, has copper deposits leased to China | AP

Afghanistan has done better digging for precious stones such as emeralds and rubies as well as semi-precious tourmaline and lapis lazuli, but the business is plagued with illegal smuggling to Pakistan. The country also mines for talc, marble, coal and iron.

Chinese investment

While the Taliban's takeover may deter investors, one country that appears willing to do business with them is China.

The world's second-biggest economy has said it was ready to have "friendly and cooperative" relations with Afghanistan after the Taliban entered Kabul. The state-owned China Metallurgical Group Corporation won rights in 2007 to lease the giant Mes Aynak copper ore deposit for 30 years and extract 11.5 million tonnes of the commodity in Afghanistan.

The project to tap the world's second-largest unexploited copper deposit has yet to start operations "due to safety issues", according to Chinese state-run tabloid Global Times.

But Global Times cited a source at the group as saying that it would "consider reopening it after the situation is stabilised, and international recognition — including the Chinese government's recognition of the Taliban regime — takes place."

While Chinese leaders are "not enthusiastic" about the Taliban takeover, "they will not allow principle to stand in the way of pragmatism," said Ryan Hass, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

"Beijing's lack of development at its major investment in the Mes Aynak copper mine demonstrates its willingness to exercise patience in pursuit of return on investment," he wrote. French expert Pitron said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

NASA rover's 2nd attempt

SPACE

NASA's Perseverance rover which did not collect a rock sample on Mars in its first attempt, is all set for another attempt in the coming weeks. The rover will drive to a new location called Citadelle for a second shot. "This time, to make sure a sample is actually collected, engineers will wait for images of the sample tube to come back before it gets processed and stowed inside the rover's belly," reports *The Verge*. "We were just super excited that the hardware worked from beginning to end without any faults. And then there was that surprise - 'No sample? What do you mean no sample?'," said Louise Jandura, the Chief Engineer for Sampling & Caching on NASA's Perseverance team. "The rock simply wasn't our kind of rock," said Jennifer Trosper, Project Manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Although we had successfully acquired over 100 cores in different test rocks on Earth, we hadn't encountered a rock that behaved in this manner," she added.

Modern art museum open

ART

Berlin's Neue Nationalgalerie, an iconic modern art museum designed by Bauhaus pioneer Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, reopened to the public after a six-year refurbishment. Germany's culture minister said that the occasion marked the museum's "brilliant comeback as a pilgrimage site for lovers of modern art and as a stage for contemporary artists." Mies van der Rohe was the last of three directors of the Bauhaus school of art and design, which started work in 1919 and was shut down shortly after the Nazis came to power. The Neue Nationalgalerie was Mies van der Rohe's only post-World War II building in Germany. It was built in then-West Berlin, not far from the Berlin Wall that divided the city for much of the Cold War. Berlin Mayor Michael Mueller said that the building stood for "progress, the avant-garde and modern, openness and internationality."

Study details solar radiation impact on Moon's surface

SPACE

NEW YORK: Solar radiation could be a more important source of tiny lunar iron nanoparticles than previously thought, scientists have found.

Asteroid impacts and solar radiation affect the moon in unique ways because it lacks the protective magnetic field and atmosphere that protect us here on Earth. Both asteroids and solar radiation break down lunar rocks and soil, forming iron nanoparticles (some smaller, some larger) that are detectable from instruments on satellites orbiting the moon.

A team led by Northern Arizona University scientists used data from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) spacecraft to understand how quickly iron nanoparticles form on the moon over time. Their findings have recently been published in the journal peer-reviewed *Geophysical Research Letters*.

"We have thought for a long time that the solar wind has a small effect on lunar surface evolution, when in fact it may be the most important process producing iron nanoparticles," said doctoral candidate Christian J Tai Udovicic, at Northern Arizona University's Department of Astronomy and Planetary Science.

"Since iron absorbs a lot of light, very small amounts of these particles can be detected from very far away — making them a great indicator of change on the Moon," Udovicic added.

Surprisingly, the smaller iron nanoparticles seemed to form at a similar rate as radiation damage in samples returned from the American space agency's Apollo missions to the moon, a hint that the sun has a strong influence in their formation.

"This study shows that the radiation from the sun could have a much larger influence in active change on the moon than previously thought, not only darkening its surface, but it might also create small quantities of water usable in future missions," Udovicic said.

Heartburn drug may help fight Covid-19

MEDICINE

NEW YORK: A significant number of people who suffered from chronic heartburn and were taking an over-the-counter acid suppressant were able to survive Covid-19, a study has found.

The low cost drug, famotidine, with the key ingredient Pepcid, was developed to block the histamine receptors that help produce acid in the stomach. A team from University of Virginia examined 22,000 people, the largest sample size for a study on famotidine and the disease to date.

The team's analysis, which appeared in the online-only journal *Signal Transduction & Targeted Therapy*, showed that when delivered at high doses (the equivalent of about 10 Pepcid tablets), famotidine appears to improve the odds of survival for Covid-19 patients, especially when it is combined with the medication aspirin.

It also seems to hinder the severity of disease progression, making patients less likely to reach the point where they require a ventilator. One of the most dangerous phenomena of Covid is that it can trigger a cytokine storm — a potentially fatal amplification of an immune response.

SHIMMERING GLOW

The Art Deco spire of the Kansas City Power and Light building stands against the full moon in Missouri on Saturday | AP

PAST UNEARTHED

Diving into ruins of an ancient party town in Italy where Romans like Caesar had villas

ARCHAEOLOGY

BAIAE: Fish dart across mosaic floors and into the ruined villas, where holidaying Romans once drank, plotted and flirted in the party town of Baiae, now an underwater archaeological park near Naples.

Statues which once decorated luxury abodes in this beachside resort are now playgrounds for crabs off the coast of Italy, where divers can explore ruins of palaces and bathhouses for emperors.

Rome's nobility were first attracted in the 2nd century BC to the hot springs at Baiae, which sits on the coast within the Campi Flegrei - a supervolcano known in English as the Phlegraean Fields.

Seven emperors, including Augustus and Nero, had villas here, as did Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. The poet Sextus Propertius described the town as a place of vice, which was "foe to virtuous creatures".

It was where "old men behave like young boys, and lots of young boys act like young girls," according to the Roman scholar Varro.

But by the 4th century, the porticos, marble columns, shrines and ornamental fish ponds had begun to sink due to bradyseism, the gradual rise and fall of land due to hydrothermal and seismic activity.

The whole area, including the neighbouring commercial capital of Pozzuoli and military seat at Miseno, were submerged. Their ruins now lie between four and six metres (15 to 20 feet) underwater.

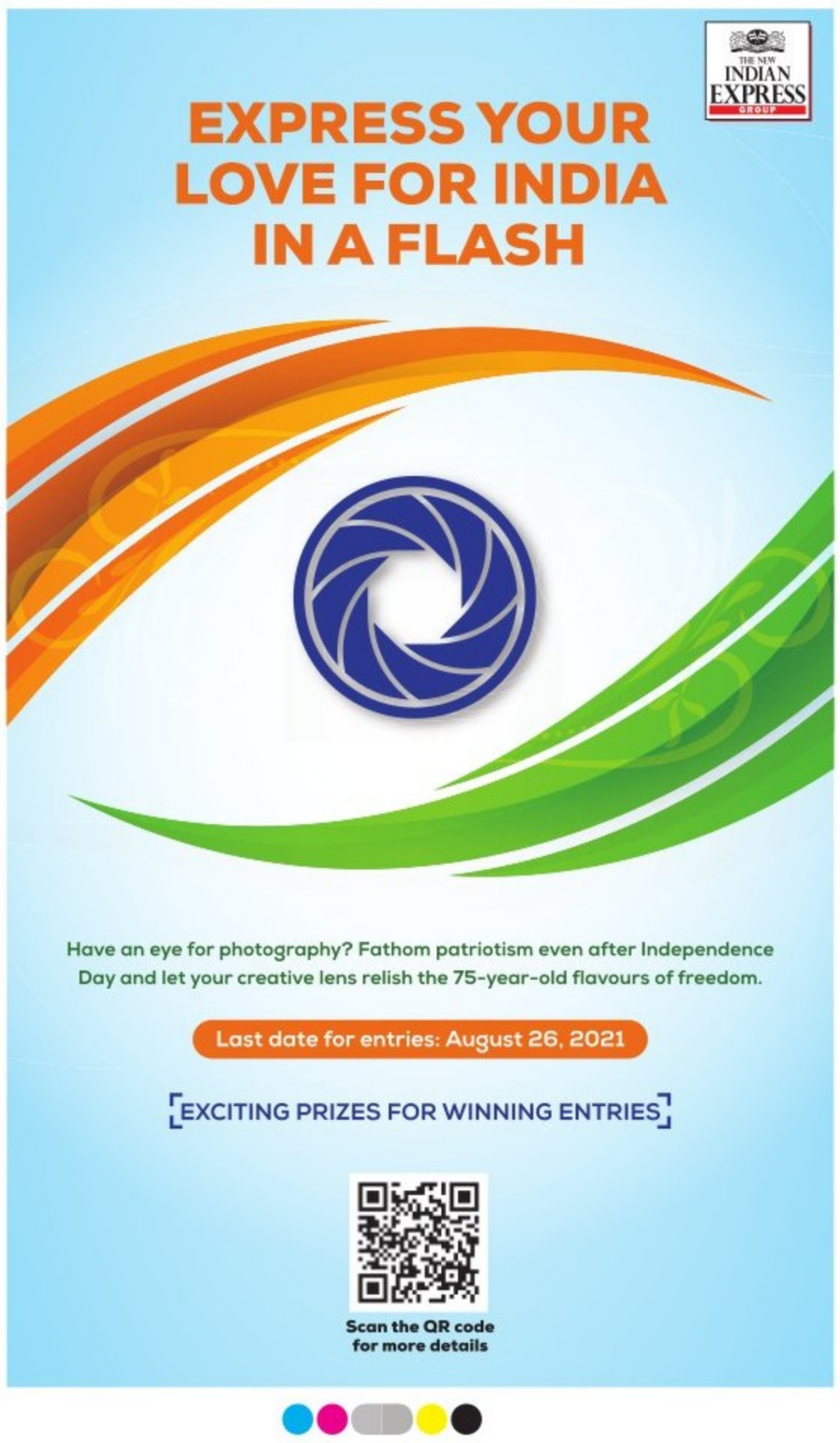
'Something unique'

"It's difficult, especially for those coming for the first time, to imagine that you can find things you would never be able to see anywhere else in the world in just a few metres of water," said Marcello Bertolaso, head of the Campi Flegrei diving centre, which takes tourists around the site.

"Divers love to see very special things, but what you can see in the park of Baiae is something unique."

The 177-hectare site has been a protected area since 2002, following decades in which antiques were found in fishermen's nets and looters had free rein. Divers must be accompanied by a registered guide.

A careful sweep of sand near a low wall uncovers a stunning floor from a villa which belonged to Gaius Calpurnius Pisoni, known to have spent his days here conspiring against Emperor Nero.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23.08.2021
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

A selfie from Moon

The world received its first view of Earth taken by a spacecraft from the vicinity of the Moon on this day in 1966

A LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPH

The photo was transmitted to Earth by Lunar Orbiter I and received at the NASA tracking station at Robledo De Chavela, Spain. The image was taken during the spacecraft's 16th orbit

IN PREPARATION

The mission of Lunar Orbiter I, one of five sent to moon by Nasa in the 1960s, was primarily to take photographs, in preparation for the manned Apollo mission just three years later

WHAT TECH CAN DO

In 2008, NASA released a newly restored version of the original 1966 image of Earth. It used refurbished machinery and modern digital tech to get much higer resolution

Kotigobba 3 to hit screens on Oct. 14

PG 4

I was doing my Masters when I decided to take up breakdance full-time. I had to top all my exams and practise daily, just to convince my parents about it

— Sushma Aithal, B-girl

'BREAKING' BARRIERS

Increasing number of millennial girls are turning to breakdance, especially after it has been confirmed as one of the four additional sports for the 2024 Paris Olympics

It's amazing to see that we have a small community of B-girls in Bengaluru. The Olympics is going to give us the much-needed exporsure

Kavipriya Dayal, B-girl

ANILA KURIAN

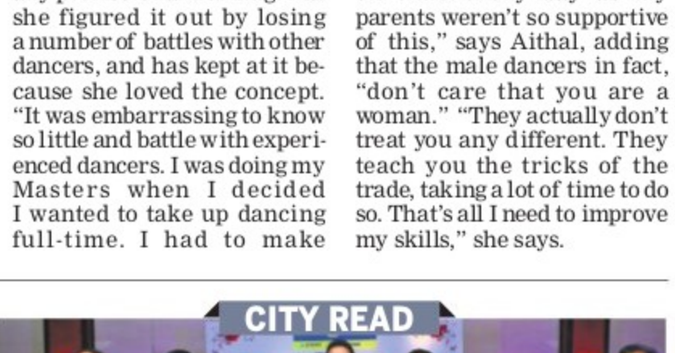
INDIA has a vibrant dance culture, with many western dance forms too having sparked an interest among youngsters in the last decade. When it comes to breaking though, there are only a handful of B-girls (the term refers to women breakdancers). But this might change with breaking being confirmed as one of the four additional sports for the 2024 Paris Olympics. There's already a spike in interest with more women engaging with the dance form.

Kavipriya Dayal, known as B-girl Kavi, says, "We've only seen the bonding of the crews in the West or in movies. It's amazing to see that we have a small community of it growing and the Olympics is going to give us the much-needed exposure." However, she feels that there are fewer B-girls in the country because of societal pressure. "Most of them leave the dancing world after they get full-time jobs or start a family. They don't get the support they should be, which is why we don't see too many women. But it's time that they also receive the necessary support because we have a lot of skills to offer and add to the dancing world," says 27-year-old Dayal.

Strength, discipline and practice is the mantra of breaking. There's a certain level of energy that's needed to be able to swing and shuffle with ease. For 25-year-old classical dancer Pooja Kumari, aka B-girl Smiley, entering the world of breaking was a brand new experience, after leaving her classical training.

"I moved from Guwahati recently to be a part of the Bengaluru breaking scene. I've been a classic dancer since I was six years old and started exploring breaking only when I turned 21. My mother didn't approve and was worried to see the injuries on my body. But they are supportive of my decision now," says Kumari.

Though the outside world makes the division of B-girls and B-boys, when dancers get onto the battlefield, there is no gender divide, claim the young dancers. Sushma Aithal (24), now known as B-girl Bee Queen, started off without any professional training. But she figured it out by losing a number of battles with other dancers, and has kept at it because she loved the concept. "It was embarrassing to know so little and battle with experienced dancers. I was doing my Masters when I decided I wanted to take up dancing full-time. I had to make sure that I topped all my exams and got to practice on time every day as my parents weren't so supportive of this," says Aithal, adding that the male dancers in fact, "don't care that you are a woman." "They actually don't treat you any different. They teach you the tricks of the trade, taking a lot of time to do so. That's all I need to improve my skills," she says.



Pooja Kumari, aka B-girl Smiley, left classical dance to pursue breaking

Recently Bollywood actors, including Deepika Padukone, have been sporting masks which are made by young Bengalureans, who returned to the city from foreign shores, owing to the pandemic

Behind those masks

ANILA KURIAN

WHAT'S the common thread between Deepika Padukone, Farhan Akhtar and Shilpa Shetty? Besides their Bollywood connection, these popular celebrities are now trending on Instagram for the masks they are sporting. And these made-to-order masks that include materials like cotton and organic dye pieces are the creation of two young Bengalureans, Gehna and Nihal Manglani. The cousins, who returned to India mid-way through their courses, owing to the pandemic, now find the spotlight on themselves.

A student of Parsons School of Design in New York, Gehna graduated recently after a year of online classes. A few years ago, if you had asked the 22-year-old what she wanted to do after graduating, her answer would've been to work with an e-commerce fashion house in New York to gain some experience right after college. Never did she imagine that the pandemic would change those plans, and that it would be a one-way ticket to Bengaluru when she got on the last flight in March 2020 before borders closed. It's a similar story for Nihal (27) too, who returned from Australia where he was pursuing his MBA.

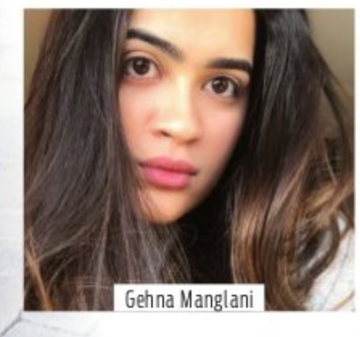
But turning adversity into advantage, the two youngsters have created a niche that has become a go-to brand for masks for Bollywood A-listers, including Sara Ali Khan, Shilpa Shetty and Arjun Rampal. Talking to **CE**, Gehna says, "This was never planned. Nihal and I just felt the pain when we watched the news about migrants suffering due to the pandemic and we wanted to help. We combined both our learnings, while attending online classes from home, and created doori."

Like everyone else, the duo too thought that the pandemic would be over in six months, not realising that it's here to stay for a long time to come. "We were thinking how we should expand. And in a random moment, we reached out to celeb contacts on Google to send out samples," says Gehna, adding one day she suddenly saw Deepika Padukone's name on my phone. "We had heard that she was wearing it but one day we saw that she herself had placed an order from our website. Everything from there has been bigger and better," she says.

After several stars have been sporting these masks, it's no surprise that orders have skyrocketed. "Honestly, even if it's a security guard or a big star wearing my product, I am happy that I am able to help fight the pandemic. Hopefully, this will all end soon and we can feel safe again," says Gehna, who is now working on adding apparels to the collection. "While on the business front, it's been a great venture, we hope that the pandemic subsides. Which is why we are working on a different vertical," she says.

Aashna Shroff in a doori mask. Pics courtesy: Doori Instagram

Nihal Manglani



Gehna Manglani

Deepika Padukone

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday.

The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹1,500 from Hanoi **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Nippattu, 2. Chetty's Corner; Seshadripuram, 3. Holige or Obbattu

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

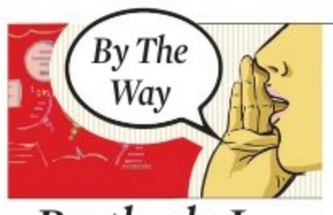
R Rajesh
Mayur Bhandari
Ganapathy V

***Conditions apply**

CITY READ

Indian Bank launches campaign on disbursement of retail, MSME products

Indian Bank is observing the month of August as the 'Mega Retail Loan Disbursement' month. In lieu of the festive season, it aims to focus on loan segments related to home, vehicle and personal loans, with the introduction of competitive interest rates and other attractive concessions. The campaign was launched by Imran Amin Siddiqui, executive director and Sudhir Kumar Gupta, field general manager of the bank.



Brotherly Love

Challenging star Darshan Thoogudeepa had special guests at his residence on Sunday on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. His fans visited him to tie a rakhi and celebrate the occasion.

Led by popular musician Manasi Prasad, an all-women ensemble performed a classical concert exploring the connection between music and Sanskrit

SANATH PRASAD

CLASSICAL music transcends boundaries, cultures and communities. And Sanskrit, one of the most ancient languages, has a deep connection with classical music that many might have heard about but rarely experienced. To understand the relationship between the two, the Sanskrit Arts Festival, organised by International Arts and Cultural Foundation(IACF), a non-profit organisation, held the Sanskrit Arts Festival on Sunday to mark World Sanskrit Day.

Featuring lead vocalist Manasi Prasad, the concert included an all-women ensemble. Other artistes who performed are Aditi Krishnaprakash (violin), Deepika Sreenivasan (mridangam), Shubha Santosh (veena) and Vijetha Hegde (tabla).

Prasad, who has been a classical artiste for over three decades, says, "The idea of the concert was to highlight the touch points between music and Sanskrit that have existed for ages. Classical music has its roots in the Vedas, especially the Samaveda. There is a misconception that anything related to the Vedas is in part considered to be a male preserve. We thought it would be unique to have an all-women ensemble to interpret this theme."

SOUND MOVE

She also observes that classical music shows are now transitioning from just being devotional to being context-based performances, that actually grab the attention of new audiences, especially millennials. Although many youngsters are influenced by Western music, Prasad believes there is a sizable section which is pursuing classical music. "The inclination towards classical music has just grown. It is important to reach out to the next gen through online platforms, unique story-telling techniques and present context-based shows that make them more reciprocative," says Prasad, who is also the museum director of Indian Music Experience (IME).

Deepika Sreenivasan, who plays the mridangam, believes that there is still a lack of opportunities and exposure for women to perform. "Men have been dominating the mridangam for 100 years now. But I took it up because I loved playing it. I am blessed to have parents who did not think playing the mridangam is associated with masculinity. However, patriarchy and misogyny are still rampant in the music scene. Women are not there yet, but we will get equality soon. Times are changing for the better," says Sreenivasan.

Classical music has its roots in the Vedas, especially the Samaveda. There is a misconception that anything related to the Vedas is in part considered to be a male preserve. We thought it would be unique to have an all-women ensemble to interpret this theme

— Manasi Prasad, vocalist

Deepika Sreenivasan

BUILD CONFIDENCE

If you feel self-conscious seeing yourself on camera but want to build your confidence, then enroll yourself for the Virtual Speaking Master-class Bangalore. Express your natural creativity and personality quirks so that you feel genuine and authentic. **When:** Aug 25 **Details:** eventbrite.com

MONSOON STREET TRAIL

Grand Mercure Bengaluru at Gopalan Mall has curated a special brunch box reminiscing monsoon delicacies from all across the country. The Monsoon Street trail is the first edition of the hotel's 'Streats' series focusing on bringing the much-missed street food flavours to the palates. **When:** Aug 31 **Details:** 7012336355

ONLINE GUITAR CLASSES

Learn the guitar online with Ultimate Beginner Guitar Master-class. You can learn the tips and tricks to play the instrument with ease and confidence. **When:** Till Aug 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

YOGA WORKSHOP

'Gentle yoga for terrible times' is an online event by Joyce Wu, where people will be taught simple and accessible breathing exercises, stretches, and guided meditation for mind, body and soul. **When:** Aug 29 **Details:** eventbrite.com

CATCH COMEDIAN APPURV GUPTA IN KAAFI WILD HAI, A STAND-UP SPECIAL. WHEN: TILL SEPT 5 DETAILS: BOOKMYSHOW.COM

Develop Language Skills

'How to Manifest Your Desires' is a workshop that aims at helping you to learn to reinforce different manifestation methods in a simple and easy language; it will help you to better manifest your desires. This is an online event conducted by instructor law of attraction author- David Neustein. **When**: Aug 26 **Details:** eventbrite.com

Kathak Training

Kathak for beginners is an online course by Skyll. This course will introduce students to basic movements and compositions of Kathak dance. This platform also offers a further continuation of the course up to the advance level. **When:** Aug 24- Sept 18 **Details:** insider.in

Resin Art Workshop

Comb and Assorted Pendants Resin Art Workshop by the Drawing Room is an online event where instructors teach you to make DIY resin accessories, which include 15 different types of pendants that can be used for earrings or keychains. **When:** Aug 29 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Virtual Tour

'Walk Through the Fair City of Dublin' is an online event by Tour HQ, which is specially designed to take in the different eras of Irish history and its turbulent political history. It is a live tour of Dublin from its foundation by Viking Norsemen through the conquest by the Normans and its development under the English rule. **When:** Aug 24-31 **Detail:** bookmyshow.com

Martial Arts

Martial Arts by Emplihi is an online introductory course outline planned for 8 sessions where the sessions are conducted by well-trained industry experts. **When:** Aug 24- 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Wellness Fair

Virtual Global Psychic, Holistic Health and Wellness Fair is an online nine-hour event where 15 speakers, who are healers, psychics, authors and musicians, come together to help you replenish and recharge. **When:** Aug 28- 29 **Details:** allevents.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

DRUMSTICKS MASALA FRY

INGREDIENTS

- **Drumstick:** 250 g
- **Red Chilli Powder, Coriander powder:** 1 tbsp ■ **Salt** as per taste
- **Dry Mango Powder, Jeera Powder, Turmeric Powder:** 1/2 tbsp
- **Asafoetida:** 1/4 tbsp

FOR COATING

- **Suji rava** (Medium Rava): 4 tbsp
- **Rice flour:** 1 tbsp, ■ **Salt**
- **Red chilli powder, Turmeric powder:** 1/2 tbsp

METHOD

- Peel the skin of the drumsticks. Boil the drumsticks in water for 5-6 min. Add a little salt. Let it cool.
- Take the drumsticks in a bowl. Add the masala ingredients. Mix it well. Add the coating ingredients in a separate bowl and mix well to create a coating mixture.
- Take a pan and add oil. Coat the drumsticks with the coating mixture. Fry the drumsticks on medium flame. Add oil as required.
- Close the pan with a lid for uniform cooking. Flip the drumsticks as required. Serve hot.

— Sushma Vernekar, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

MATSYA MUDRA

(GESTURE OF THE FISH)

In Sanskrit, 'matsya' means fish and also refers to the first of the incarnations of the Hindu god, Vishnu and 'mudra' means gesture of the hand. It is the best yoga mudra which is popular and well-known from ancient times in India. It symbolises particular energy or quality by the different forms of a yoga mudra. According to Hindu, Jain and Buddhist iconography, this gesture is used to symbolise the fish (fearlessly floating in the ocean of samsara). This pose is popularly used in Bharatanatyam dances and reading the asana-mantra or rituals.

STEPS

- Sit in any comfortable seating posture and place your hands with the palms facing upwards on the thighs or the knees.
- Meditation postures like Padmasana, Siddhasana, Swastikasana, Vajrasana, etc., are ideal for the practice of mudras.
- Close your eyes and take some deep breaths with the awareness of the breathing process.
- Put your right hand over your left hand, palms facing down, and hold it in front of you.
- Keep all the fingers connected, while keeping the thumb fingers extended as much as possible.
- Perform this pose for 45 minutes at a stretch every day or for 10 to 15 minutes three times a day.
- You may also practise this mudra on a full stomach.
- It can also be practised in a standing, sitting or lying down posture.

BENEFITS

- It provides energy and makes us fit.
- This mudra has a profound effect on our body, soul and mind, which keeps you healthy.
- Regular practice of this mudra also helps to prolong your age. Helps to relax the muscles as well as an overcharged endocrine gland.
- If you practise this mudra regularly, it will help to increase your memory power and sharpen the brain.
- Helpful for osteoarthritis.

LIMITATIONS

- All mudras are beneficial to us without any side-effects. But make sure that no pressure should be applied on the fingers.
- If you feel a pressure, it means your mind is restless and not stable.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

NASA'S CURIOUS UNIVERSE

Our universe is a wild and wonderful place. Join NASA astronauts, scientists and engineers on a new adventure each week — all you need is your curiosity. First-time space explorers are welcome.

- On Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

PODCAST

From Earth orbit to the Moon and Mars, explore the world of human spaceflight with NASA each week on the official podcast of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Listen to the in-depth conversations with the astronauts, scientists, and engineers who make it possible.

- On Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

SMALL STEPS, GIANT LEAPS

NASA's technical workforce put boots on the Moon, tire tracks on Mars, and the first reusable spacecraft in orbit around the Earth. Learn what's next as they build missions that redefine the future with amazing discoveries and remarkable innovations.

- On Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

ON A MISSION

A journey to the stars doesn't just begin at the launchpad. Discover the new worlds through epic stories told by scientists on missions to outer space.

- On Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

THE INVISIBLE NETWORK

The technologies that allow NASA to talk to and navigate spacecraft are often overlooked — perhaps because they work so well. Listen in to know more about it.

- On Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

ADHYAKSHA

Chandru and Aishwarya, two classmates, assist each other during difficult times in their lives. However, trouble begins when they end up falling in love with each other.

- Cast: Sharan, Chikkanna

TARAK

Tarak moves to India after his parents' deaths and soon falls in love with Meera, a kind and selfless woman. However, their relationship soon hits a rough patch.

- Cast: Darshan Thoogudeepa, Devaraj

GOOGLY

Sharath and Swathi meet in Bangalore and fall in love but due to misunderstandings, they drift apart. However, a few years later, destiny brings them face to face at a friend's wedding.

- Cast: Yash, Kirti Kharbanda

KIRATHAKA

Nandisha, a gambler and drinker, falls in love with Nethra, who belongs to a rival village. He then decides to elope with her but has to deal with the rivalry between their communities.

- Cast: Yash, Oviya

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WALK WITH LITTLE AMAL, A THEATRICAL JOURNEY CELEBRATING THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

BY AMIR NIZAR ZUABI

In a staggering display of creativity and community, theater director Amir Nizar Zuabi introduces a nine-year-old refugee girl named Amal as she makes her way from Turkey to England.

2 HOW COVID-19 RESHAPED US CITIES

BY KEVIN J KRIZEK

The pandemic spurred an unprecedented reclamation of urban space, ushering in a seemingly bygone era of pedestrian pastimes, as cars were side-lined in favour of citizens. Highlighting examples from across the US, environmental designer Kevin J Krizek reflects on how temporary shifts can become permanent fixture.

3 AN INTERACTIVE MAP TO TRACK (AND END) POLLUTION IN CHINA

BY MA JUN

China has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2060. Environmentalist Ma Jun introduces the Blue Map which will help make informed decision.

4 3 THOUGHTFUL WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER

BY LANA MAZAHREH

Lana Mazahreh grew up in Jordan, where she learned how to conserve water. In this practical talk, she shares three lessons from water-poor countries on how to save water and address the global crisis.

5 4 WAYS WE CAN AVOID A CATASTROPHIC DROUGHT

BY DAVID SEDLAK

In this talk, civil and environmental engineer David Sedlak shares four practical solutions to the ongoing urban water crisis. His goal: to shift our water supply towards new, local sources of water and create a system that is capable of withstanding any of the challenges.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

8 THOTTAKAL (Tamil)

Sathya, an honest policeman, accidentally loses his service pistol while tailing a criminal. However, the thief who stole the pistol sells it to Murthy and goes on a killing spree.

Cast: Aparna Balamurali, MS Bhaskar, Nasser

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

MERSAL (Tamil)

Maaran, a doctor, is falsely arrested for the murder of his colleague, Dr Arjun Zachariah. He soon discovers that the real culprit is a look-alike who aims to expose corruption in the medical industry.

Cast: Vijay, Nitya Menen, Samantha Akkineni

- Watch on: Netflix

MUNGARU MALE (Kannada)

Preetham loves Nandhini but gets heartbroken when he comes to know that her marriage is already fixed. Things change when she challenges him to win her heart.

Cast: Ganesh, Pooja Gandhi, Ananth Nag

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

BAAGHI 3 (Hindi)

Ronnie, a young man, shares a deep bond with Vikram, his elder brother and a policeman. When Vikram gets kidnapped in Syria while on a mission, Ronnie sets out to rescue him.

Cast: Shraddha Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Disha Patani

- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

K.G.F (Kannada)

Rocky, a young man, seeks power and wealth in order to fulfil a promise to his dying mother. His quest takes him to Mumbai, where he gets involved with the notorious gold mafia.

Cast: Yash, Srinidhi Shetty, Ramachandra Raju

- Watch on: Voot

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

ROOHI (Hindi)

Two bumbling pals are hired to kidnap a bride. They find themselves in trouble when one falls for their abductee and the other for the spirit possessing her.

Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Rajkummar Rao, Varun Sharma

- Watch on: Jio Cinema

NAYATTU (Malayalam)

Three police officers become pawns for unscrupulous lawmakers when they are framed in an incident amid political elections and must flee to evade arrest.

Cast: Kunchacko Boban, Joju George, Nimisha Sajayan

- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

TRAIN TO BUSAN (Korean)

Seok-woo and his daughter are on a train to Busan on the latter's birthday to see his wife. However, the journey turns into a nightmare when they are trapped amidst a zombie outbreak in South Korea.

Cast: Gong Yoo, Yeon Sang-ho and Ma Dong-seok

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MIRAGE (Spanish)

A space-time continuum glitch allows Vera to save a boy's life 25 years in the past but somehow results in the loss of her daughter.

Cast: Adriana Ugarte, Alvaro Morte and Chino Darin ● Watch on: Netflix

BARCELONA: A LOVE UNTOLD (English)

While earning a degree in Spain, a young architecture student dealing with grief meets a fellow expatriate trying to escape her past.

Cast: Kathryn Bernardo, Daniel Padilla and Joshua Garcia

- Watch on: Netflix

BABYSITTER (English)

When Cole stays up past his bedtime, he discovers that his hot babysitter belongs to a satanic cult that will stop at nothing to keep him quiet.

Cast: Samara Weaving, Jenna Ortega and Emily Alyn Lind

- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Voot: ₹ 299 per year

Taste of the Orient

Chef Shubham Thakur brings together modern Japanese cooking techniques with timeless flavours in this pop-up

Chef Shubham Thakur

Megu Oriental salads

ASLAM GAFOOR

(The author is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover and travel enthusiast)

FINE dining Japanese restaurant Megu at The Leela Palace New Delhi is making a crossover to namma Bengaluru with a pop-up starting tomorrow. Chef Shubham Thakur helms the Delhi restaurant and he is travelling to the Garden City to showcase Megu's Japanese flavours at Zen, The Leela Palace Bengaluru, with chef Abhijit Patil.

Megu has five locations around the globe - New York, Doha, Moscow, Switzerland and Delhi. This pop-up will be a rare treat for Bengalureans to embark on a culinary journey through some of the top-rated ingredients, dishes and presentations. Starting his journey with Megu Delhi in 2015, award-wining chef Shubham has extensive experience in Japanese cuisine. He later joined Wasabi by Morimoto at Taj Mansingh and Yokoso at The Lodhi before returning to home ground heading the kitchen at Megu Delhi.

The Bengaluru menu will feature modern Japanese cuisine with appetisers like Rock Shrimp Tempura tossed in homemade sauce, Ikebana Tuna served over crispy baby spinach, Tofu Carpaccio tempered with sesame oil and the Baked Crab in house made Shichimi sauce. For the mains, you could opt for Nasu Miso eggplant with pickle and eggplant crisp, Miso Seabass and Charred Lobster grilled with avocado, cherry tomato and yuzu kosho sauce.

The menu also has mushroom and seafood soups in addition to ramen and sushi lunch sets in veg and non-veg options. The Tonkotsu Ramen comes with braised pork belly, and the Yasai Tantanmen features vegetable tempura, accompanied with bamboo shoots, scallion, Beni shoga and soup. The sushi sets include five veg maki rolls or fish and seafood sushi, served with tempura moriawase, grilled fish and zaru soba.

Chef Shubham and Chef Abhijit are all set to elevate the Japanese dining experience in the city, and it is time for epicureans to discover Megu's innovative creations and indulge their senses.

The pop-up is taking place between August 24 and 29, lunch and dinner, by reservations only. Call: 080-37571520

Crispy asparagus

CROWNING GLORY

Platelets-rich plasma, a non-surgical hair restoration treatment, helps to cure hair loss and hair thinning

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

WHEN considering hair restoration, there are many options, few surgical and others non-surgical. When deciding on the treatment, people want to try the ones that provide results. Harvesting platelets-rich plasma (PRP) from your own blood and reinfusing it into your hair or skin, has been a celebrity hair growth mystery for a couple of years now. It is Kim Kardashian who got the 'vampire facial' it's famed and reliable status that it enjoys today.Dr Karishma Kogadu, cosmetic surgeon says, "PRP is a form of regenerative therapy that uses your own plasma to promote collagen production, improve acne scars, reduce signs of aging , treat hair loss and thinning. PRP softens the wrinkles, improves water retention and creates skin texture and tone that is smoother, younger and better. It works best on getting concentrated amounts of platelets in the plasma from the patient's blood. These platelets are rich in various growth factors and bioactive proteins that aid in tissue healing and help in skin rejuvenation. PRP is minimally invasive, has no risk of allergic reactions and can be used to treat any area of the body without the risk of side effects."

Causes of hair loss

Reasons for hair loss differ and every individual responds differently to every treatment. Hair loss could be due to environmental factors like hard water, genetic factors, after effect of any sicknesses like Covid, unhealthy diet, hormonal imbalance or medication. Whatever the reason might be, we all wish for our crowning glory to be lustrous and healthy. Platelet-rich plasma is a non-surgical hair restoration method that helps with thinning hair and reversing the hair loss. It is more effective in such cases where hair loss is due to medication. It is ideal for improving the hair texture as well. Since PRP is a treatment designed to strengthen the active hair follicles, thus anybody who is in the early stages of hair fall would benefit from the treatment.

1. Process A medical professional draws blood from a vein of the patient
2. They place the blood sample in a centrifuge
3. The centrifuge spins the blood, separating its components
4. A medical professional extracts the platelets using a syringe
5. A doctor injects the platelets into targeted areas of the scalp
6. There is no downtime and a person can return to his/her daily activities, immediately
7. It is almost an hour-long process.
8. It requires regular sessions at regular intervals to see the results

Vampire facial

The process used to improve the texture of the skin in combination with micro needling, is known as vampire facial. Instagrammers posting such pictures has been a trend since Kardashian pushed it to the limelight.

PRP is not just a miracle treatment for celebrities but even for common people although only a certified trichologist would be able to give the expert's advice. When combined with other methods for hair restoration like oral medications, laser comb and application of serums, PRP can help restore the health and quality of hair.

Kim Kardashian with a vampire facial

PIC DR KARISHMA AESTHETICS

Like every crisis is an opportunity, we used the lockdown time to build on our combat simulation and worked on improvising weapons, arenas, and technology to cater to different sets of people

Manasa Malagatti
co-founder, Tactical Arena

You too can put yourself in the shoes of a brigadier, colonel, lieutenant colonel, or soldiers through this combat sport

DONNING COMBAT CAPS

SANATH PRASAD

IN 2018, Manu Malagatti and his cousin Arjun Bandi, were playing 'Call of Duty' by adopting their own set of strategies and tactics to defeat the enemies. But they did not know that the game would inspire them to create a concept of 'war-centric games' and develop it into a business model. After a couple of months, it led to the birth of 'Tactical Arena', a physical space in Yeshwantpur where civilians could experience various roles from the Armed Forces in the form of a 'game'. The concept is largely inspired by the Multi Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) - a popular military simulation sport in the US.

Initially, 'Tactical Arena' was open to the people to experience the sports with integrated weaponised systems. However, the founders changed their plans during the course of the pandemic. "The pilot project started in October 2019 and continued till January 2020. However, the pandemic struck in March 2020, stopping us from fully implementing the project. The long pandemic break gave us the scope to research and develop character-intensive military simulations, and has been built on fourth-generation technology. Participants can play the role of a brigadier, colonel, lieutenant colonel, soldiers and also analyse their shooting accuracy," says Manu, who runs the arena along with his cousins, Manasa Malagatti and Nandish Roy.

Gamers sporting a combat outfit, try their hands at weapons in a simulated situation.

Now, the team is ready with an expansive and advanced idea, waiting to be rolled out once the restrictions on social gatherings are relaxed. 'Tactical Arena' is broadly dividing its features to cater to different sets of audience, including the Indian Armed Forces, civilians and gated communities. "Like every crisis is an opportunity, we used the lockdown time to build on our weapons, setup, and technology to cater to different sets of people. We will be introducing environment-controlled indoor and outdoor arenas for civilians," says Manasa. Manu also highlights that corporates are also making use of military simulation to understand team-work and team building equations for better workplace culture. "We want to make the game as realistic as possible through sophisticated technologies that give them the experience of a combat zone," says Manu.

We want to make the game as realistic as possible through sophisticated technologies that give them the experience of a combat zone – Manu Malagatti, founder, Tactical Arena

CITY READ

Renovated branch of Union Bank of India inaugurated

The fully renovated branch of Union Bank of India, M G Road was inaugurated by zonal head Chandra Mohan Reddy, regional head Nanjundappa and branch head Mahalinga, in the presence of dignitaries, executives of bank, staff, and customers.

India's largest showroom for linen fabrics launches in Bengaluru

Linen Vogue la classe expands its presence in the city with a showroom in Jayanagar, showcasing a vast collection of European linen and Egyptian Giza fabrics. The store offers a range of options including solid colours, yarn-dyed stripes, checks, Jacquards, Ombreys, embroidery and printed fabrics in pure linen and linen blended fabrics for shirts, trousers, jackets, suits and ethnic wear for both men and women. It also offers customised tailoring facility for men, women and children.

Eat or get beaten

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Have you noticed how the villain always has the upper hand? In books and in movies, the enemy has more power, the better brains, the better army, good fashion sense, and a nice house. They have it all. The story is no different in videogames. In fact, it is worse here because we experience defeat by the villain first-hand.It is here, that the game "Carrion" extends its disgusting tentacle to shake hands with us. In this game, we ARE the evil.

In Carrion, we play as a vicious human-eating, greasy monster. It is a platformer, playable on the PC and Xbox. While the gameplay is on a two-dimensional environment, the experience itself has more depth. The puny humans are nothing at the might of this amorphous, ever-growing beast. It is ironic how heart-warming the slurps and cracks get.

Since most of the game involves the monster feasting on the humans to grow in size, it is only right that the length of the game is also bite-sized. It is an ideal weekend-play, especially because it is easy to finish, and does not require complete concentration. The progression is based on a combination of solving puzzles, and having a mental memory of the game's map. As you move and explore the alien facility, newer rooms and more complex puzzles emerge. The monster gets newer and better skills to unlock more rooms in the facility.

Carrion has no dialogue, and a rather feeble backstory, so I decided to visualise a motivation for myself. I wanted to redeem me from the guilt of mercilessly destroying a research station. Perhaps 'blobby' (the disgusting monster that I played as), is really a kind monster. It wants nothing but to protect the scientist humans from a worse fate taking over the research facility. Blobby merely helps the humans by destroying drones, which would have otherwise fried their brains and made their careers obsolete.

In all seriousness, this game is light, simple, and a great stress-buster. Really. Just watching the humans scram while Blobby echolocates is entertainment enough.It is available for free with the Xbox game pass. A rating of 1,000 becquerels for this easy-to-digest, radioactive mess of a game.

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KGF 2 GETS A NEW RELEASE DATE

Production house, Hombale Films, actor Yash and director Prashanth Neel announced the new release date on Twitter

The uncertainties of today will only delay our resolve, but the eventuality is as promised. We will be out in theaters on April 14, 2022
— Yash, actor

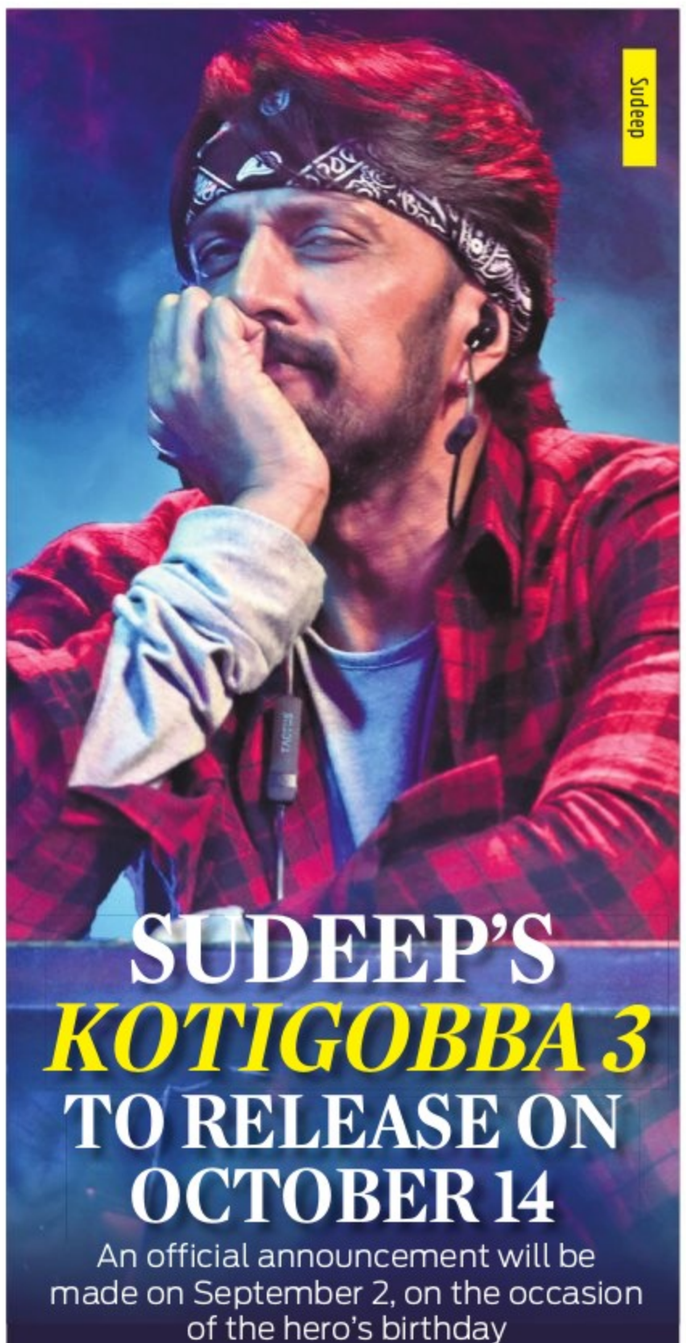
CE FEATURES

THE makers of the upcoming pan-Indian film, *KGF: Chapter 2*, have announced the revised release date. The Yash-starrer, which was earlier scheduled to release on July 16 this year, is now set to hit screens on April 14, 2022. Yash took to Twitter to reveal the release date of the Prashanth Neel directorial. "The uncertainties of today will only delay our resolve, but the eventuality is as promised. We will be out in theaters on April 14, 2022." wrote Yash, while sharing a new poster.

The highly-anticipated sequel to the 2018 actioner features Sanjay Dutt as the primary antagonist and also stars Raveena Tandon, Prakash Raj, Rao Ramesh, and Srinidhi Shetty in supporting roles. Moreover, it was recently announced that the film's television rights have been bagged by the Zee network.

It may be noted that Prashanth's next, Salaar, which is also being bankrolled by Hombale Films—the production house behind *KGF Chapter 2*—is scheduled to release on April 14. With *KGF: Chapter 2* taking over the slot, the makers are expected to announce an updated release date of *Salaar* soon.

Produced by Hombale Films, *KGF: Chapter 2* has music by Ravi Basrur, while Bhuvan Gowda has handled the cinematography. The film will be releasing in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.



SUDEEP'S *KOTIGOBBA 3* TO RELEASE ON OCTOBER 14

An official announcement will be made on September 2, on the occasion of the hero's birthday

CE FEATURES

The long-awaited news about the release date of Sudeep's *Kotigobba 3* is finally here. The latest update is that the commercial entertainer directed by debutant Shiva Karthik and produced by Surappa Babu will finally hit the screens on October 14. An official announcement about the same will be finally made on Sudeep's birthday (September 2).

The makers had initially planned the release in the last week of April and had even planned the audio launch and pre-release event in March. However, the release date had to be pushed due to the second wave of Corona. Now with theatres are reopening to 100 per cent capacity, the release plans of and *Kotigobba 3* seems to be firmly on track.

The film's satellite, digital and Hindi dubbing rights have been sold for a whopping amount. A sequel to *Kotigobba 2*, the thriller, written by Sudeep, consists of an ensemble cast. The film marks the Sandalwood debut of Malayalam actor Madonna Sebastian. *Kotigobba* 3 also stars Bollywood actors Shraddha Das Aftab Shivdasani, and Ravi Shankar in prominent roles.

The music of *Kotigobba 3* is scored by Arjun Janya and has cinematography by Shekhar Chandru.

YOGI ON BOARD *HEAD BUSH*

CE FEATURES

THE makers of *Head Bush*, starring Dhananjay in the lead, are in the process of bringing together an interesting star cast for the project. With Payal Rajput playing the female lead in her first Kannada outing, we now hear that *Sidlingu*-fame, Yogesh aka Yogi is has joined the cast of *Head Bush*. The actor has himself confirmed the development at the song release event of *Lanke*, when he was asked about his upcoming projects.

Yogi came to the limelight after playing the antagonist role in his debut film, *Duniya*. With *Head Bush* tracing the journey of Bengaluru underworld Don, MP Jayaraj, Yogi's character in the film remains a matter of curiosity. According to sources, the actor has bagged an antagonist role and will appear as an interesting character. However, no further details have been revealed by the makers. The film's story has been penned by Agni Shridhar, and the shooting is currently in progress, with Yogi expected to join the sets soon. This will be Yogi's first pan Indian film, which is being backed by Dhanajay's Daali Pictures in association with Somanna Talkies.

'It is not good to sit idle, especially when good subjects come your way'

... says Dhananjay, who tells us how August has been special to him with a whole lot of his films doing the talk

A SHARADHAA

IT has been one busy August for Dhananjay. It began with the release of *Udupi Hotelu* song from *Badava Rascal*, which got an overwhelming response. Same was the case with the *Monsoon Raaga* teaser and *Rathnan Prapancha* trailer. The trend continues with the first look poster of *Head Bush*, which was released on Sunday ahead of his birthday (August 23). His birthday updates continues with the makers of *Bairagee* releasing a teaser. This apart, KRG Studios who have signed a multi-film deal with Dhananjay, will be officially announcing details of the project too.

Dhananjay, who has been working non-stop for the last year braving the pandemic is going to have a working birthday too. He is currently on the sets of Vijay Milton's upcoming Tamil film.

Dhananjay says "It is not good to sit idle, especially when good subjects come your way, and I feel lucky to have bagged a handful of good work, especially in these times. I made sure I grabbed them all with open arms." The actor is looking forward to the release of *Salaga*, which sees him in a pivotal role. He is also ready with *Badava Rascal*, the maiden production venture under his Daali Pictures. With *Rathnan Prapancha* also ready for release, and having completed shoot for Shivanna's *Bairagee*, Dhananjay is set to solely focus on *Head Bush*.

Based on the life and times of a Bengaluru don, the gangster drama is directed by Shoonya. Interestingly, Dhananjay has also taken the responsibility of producing this multilingual film in association with Somanna Talkies. "It is a big responsibility and such risks are necessary if we need to climb to the next level, and this move was inevitable," says the *Tagaru* actor.

Dhananjay, who made his Telugu debut with *Bhairava Geetha*, is also part of the pan-Indian Allu Arjun-starrer, *Pushpa*. The actor also has a Kannada-Tamil bilingual title *Twenty One Hours*, directed by Jai Shankar Pandit, and a Tamil film, which also stars Vijay Anthony.

For the actor, who thinks about cinema 24/7, he understands the expectations of his audience across industries. "Thankfully, my upcoming films will not see me in stereotypical roles. Irrespective of playing the lead or playing a pivotal role, every character played by me will be different," says Dhananjay, adding, "I am almost done shooting for all my projects. I will only concentrate on *Head Bush*, and I hope to see all my films hitting the theatres soon. "

A still from *Head Bush*

Tiger Shroff-starrer *Ganapath* to release on Christmas, 2022

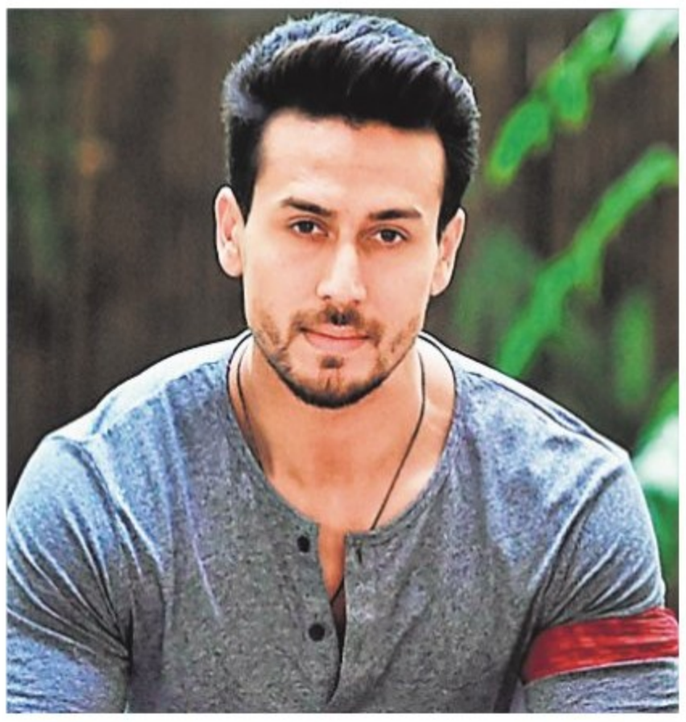
CE FEATURES

TIGER Shroff and Kriti Sanon starrer *Ganapath* will release theatrically on December 23, 2022.

Directed by Vikas Bahl, *Ganapath* is a futuristic action thriller. The big-budget film is backed by Pooja Entertainment. It will be released in multiple parts, starring with *Ganapath Part 1* on Christmas next year.

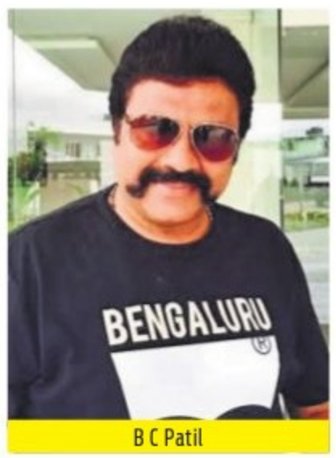
The makers announced the release date with a new teaser. It shows Tiger amid flaming ruins in a futuristic city. Tying on boxing wraps, he says in voiceover, "*Apun ka do baap hai. God aur Janta*. Dono ne bola aane ko, toh apun aa raha hai (I have two fathers. God and the public. They both asked to come, so I'm coming)."

"*Ganapath* has been one of my most ambitious and challenging project," Tiger said in a statement. "This one truly is going to challenge me to an extreme level in terms of action as well the idea is to take the bar a lot higher for myself and *Ganapath* is just the right vehicle to express a new action for our audiences here."



Nanda Kishore-BC Patil collaborating for a film

The *Raana* director is working on the subject, and plans to go on floors by the end of this year



B C Patil

CE FEATURES

NANDA Kishore, who is currently busy shooting for Raana, starring Shreyas Manju, has been in talks with various production houses. We now hear the director will be a producer collaborating with actor-producer, BC Patil, on one of his forthcoming projects. Nanda Kishore, confirming his association, said that discussions with BC Patil, are underway and that he will be giving a final update once the story is finalised. "Right now we are cracking on the subject. We will then be locking the lead actor who fits the bill before the production house comes with an official announcement. We want to go on floors with this project by the end of this year," says the Adhyaksha director. The director is also collaborating with Prajwal Devaraj for a project, that is set to be bankrolled by Sumanth Kranthi, and an official announcement about this project is awaited.

Likewise, BC Patil will be producing a film that will be directed by Yogaraj Bhat. This project also has names like Suri, composer-director Harikrishna V, and writer-actor Vikas involved in it.

Meanwhile, the first look poster of Nanda Kishore's Raana will be released by Shivarajkumar on August 24.

Nanda Kishore